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White Paper on economy trapped after Cabinet split

Agreement among ministers at yesterday's meeting to consider the Chancellor's proposals on the economy has forced him to abandon his plan to publish a White Paper today.

Instead, he will make a statement in the Commons that will include his ideas on future controls.

Chancellor to make statement at 11 am

Draft proposals may present difficulties for the 13 Liberal MPs on whose support the Government depends. On that account, it was being suggested, the Cabinet saw some advantage in avoiding the precise language of a White Paper and preferring the looser form of a Commons statement.

Mr Norman Atkinson, treasurer of the Labour Party and a leading member of the Tribune Group, showed in a speech last night the kind of pressures Mr Healey is now facing in and outside the Cabinet room.

"Unless the Government now recognizes the need for price controls and is prepared to guarantee that there will be no further drop in living standards", he said, "Britain will undoubtedly head for a wages war of volcanic proportions."

Mr Atkinson's speech struck responding chords that could be heard at a more discreetly muted pitch during the past two or three days in Westminster corridors, as it became clear that the TUC leaders were unable or unwilling to deliver the deal on which Mr Healey and the Treasury were basing their strategy for the next 12 months.

That explains why Mr Callaghan has not only ceded ground but also had to say in the House yesterday that at question time that the Chancellor's statement today will be "perfectly adequate" as a substitute for the dead White Paper if it is reproduced in Hansard next week.

For Mrs Thatcher there was a world of difference to change from a White Paper on pay policy to "a minor Budget statement".

From below the gangway Mr Hill, another Tribune MP, reminded the Prime Minister that on pay "it is the public sector workers who inevitably get clobbered".

That was why, Mr Callaghan answered: "I am in favour whenever I can get it by agreement of a pay policy. It is the fairest way of distributing rewards in any modern complex society. But it also happens to be a democracy and the Government has to operate in the context of that agreement that can be secured".

At that point Mr Callaghan betrayed his acute disappointment at the Government's failure to strike a third-year bargain with the TUC. But he later insisted that the social contract lives on.

Making the best of things, Mr Callaghan told Mr Enoch Powell that he agreed free collective bargaining "can be restored without undue damage". His objection to free collective bargaining "in its raw state" was that it made no sense of justice between various groups of workers.

For that reason he would try on every occasion he got of some agreement with the union movement as a whole. Discussions would take place during the summer "in the new situation in which we find ourselves".

It had to change the Cabinet's approach to settle the statement, adding "a similar post with Queen's Park Rangers". He succeeds Tommy Docherty, who was dismissed.

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Wingers argued last night the Government's

The New York skyline and Brooklyn Bridge in darkness during Wednesday night's power failure. A building on the left is lit by emergency power.

2,500 held for looting in blackout

From Nicholas Fraser

New York, July 14

Two thousand five hundred people were arrested for looting after a power failure plunged New York into darkness last night. This afternoon much of the city was still without electricity.

Its banks, stores, financial markets and businesses were closed for the day after Mr Abraham Beame, the mayor, had issued a statement telling New Yorkers to remain at home until the emergency had been resolved.

Mr Healey will make a statement tomorrow on pay and the proposals he will put before the Finance Bill next week.

BEFORE a matter of conventional Callaghan said in an off-the-record meeting that "this is an awful lot about nothing".

The Cabinet would consider whether there should be a review in due course, perhaps autumn. "Why

the Commons are in a day's debate now on counter-inflation, the differences inside the party are so deep as they are, it is possible that government will have to go to a vote tantamount to a confidence motion to pull out.

Mr Leader of the Commons' officially commented that he did not believe "all a judgment had been made about today's statement for the Chancellor's presumably meaning as much of Labour and rank and file as leader and the Open

yesterday's Cabinet had, by all accounts, a document serving as a paper.

Mr Healey had outlined of the statement he made in the House, ministers present at it would fail to be announced. They the so-called practices were wrong, or the Chancellor for the Treasury bench immediate response, hostile.

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HOME NEWS.

'Mr Maudling was at fault for not declaring Malta interests'

By Our Political Reporter

Mr Maudling, former Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer, vigorously, but not improperly, worked to promote the interests of Mr John Pouson, the former architect, in Malta and was at fault in not declaring his interests during a speech in Parliament, a select committee of MPs' reported yesterday.

The committee, which was set up in October last year to report on the conduct and activities of MPs in connection with the affairs of Mr Pouson, also states of Mr John Cordle, Conservative MP for Bourne-Mount, East:

"What your committee finds objectionable about Mr Cordle's conduct is that his motive in pressing the interests of The Gambia in the House was further his own unprincipled commercial interests, that is to say, that he was raising a matter in Parliament for reward, and they consider that he abused his membership of Parliament thereby. This conduct they consider amounts to contempt of the House."

In the case of Mr Albert Roberts, Labour MP for Northampton, the committee considers that the person with whom he was dealing had the right to suggest that Mr Roberts was being paid by Mr Pouson. His failure so to inform them "constituted conduct inconsistent with the standards which the House is entitled to expect from its members."

The committee states that in its opinion the evidence does not suggest a connexion with the efforts of Mr Pouson on the part of Lord Glenamara (Formerly Mr Edward Short) that would justify its making any further comment. The allegation that in 1971-72 Mr Short, a former Leader of the House of Commons, held an account at the Swiss Corporation Bank in Zurich was investigated by Mr John Morrison, Deputy Commissioner at Scotland Yard, and his statement established beyond doubt that the allegation was based on forged documents.

Mr Maudling's business association with Mr Pouson began in 1966, the committee states. He became a director of Construction Promotion in September and chairman in November. International Technical and Construction Services (ITCS) replaced Construction Promotion, and Mr Maudling became a director and chairman of it on January 3, 1967.

He also became a director of Open-Systems on July 11, 1967.

His work involved seeking to obtain business for Mr Pouson,

to some extent in the United Kingdom but principally overseas, on behalf of

ITCS, in the Middle East, in Mexico and in Malta.

The committee made a full investigation of the remuneration and other benefits received by Mr Maudling and his family from his association with Mr Pouson.

The report explains that that was not because there was anything improper about this remuneration, but because it was necessary to understand the extent of Mr Maudling's interest in order to consider any obligation to declare it that he might have owed to the House.

Mr Maudling received £625 from Construction Promotion, £1,500 from Open-Systems, and was entitled to £9,500 a year from ITCS. He decided not to draw his money from ITCS until the company became profitable, and he returned a cheque. Had

ments and was entirely untrue. It has not been possible to identify the forger.

Regarding the publication of a newspaper report in June, 1973, that four other MPs, Mr Ernest Armstrong (Durham, North-West), Mr Edward Leadbetter (Hartlepool), Mr Roy Mason (Barnsley) and Mr Frederick Willey (Sunderland, North) had been interrogated by the police in connexion with Mr Pouson's affairs and might be arrested, Scotland Yard inquiries soon established that that report was based on a bogus document. The committee thinks it right to repeat that the whole story was false and without any foundation.

Mr Maudling's business association with Mr Pouson began in 1966, the committee states. He became a director of Construction Promotion in September and chairman in November. International Technical and Construction Services (ITCS) replaced Construction Promotion, and Mr Maudling became a director and chairman of it on January 3, 1967.

As an inducement to Mr Maudling to join his companies, Mr Pouson agreed to make an annual payment of £5,000 under covenant to a charity of which Mrs Maudling was one of six trustees, the Adeline Gené Theatre Trust. Other benefits included travel expenses for Mrs Maudling to Mexico and elsewhere, and supervisory services for a swimming pool, for which no bill was submitted by Mr Pouson but for which Mr Maudling has agreed to pay the trustees in bankruptcy as part of the trustee's initiative.

On April 6, 1968, Mr Maudling wrote to Mr Pouson: "The account Baker sent to me set out very graphically the total cost to you of the Maudling family and their interests. It certainly is unusual only hope that you think it is worth while never hesitate to tell me if you have doubts."

In the opinion of the committee "this description of his relationship with Mr Pouson by Mr Maudling should be a shadow minister the committee". The letter contained nothing that was untrue, it considers that had the House been aware of this shadow minister's position (since a shadow minister is a potential future minister)—be in a position to help Malta.



Mr Maudling: Criticism of resignation letter.



Mr Cordle: "Contempt of the House".



Mr Roberts: Failed to tell of payments.

the company prospered, he would have been entitled to full back payment, so that must be regarded as part of his interest in the Pouson companies, the committee states.

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bore in mind when considering the nature of his involvement with ITCS and the extent of the need to declare his interest".

The committee states that Mr Maudling made full inquiries before becoming associated with Mr Pouson; if he was misled, so were many others. In particular, the committee is satisfied that there is nothing to suggest that Mr Maudling was aware of a bribe said to have been paid in connection with the Gozo hospital contract.

Mr Maudling took adequate steps to disclose his relationship with Mr Pouson to those with whom he dealt outside Parliament, the committee says, but there are aspects that have given the committee concern.

On Mr Maudling's position as a shadow minister the committee states that he had made a covenant with the Government; would cut aid to Malta. The report continues:

The maintenance of aid to Malta was certainly in Mr Pouson's interests and consequently Mr Maudling approached on business matters on behalf of Mr Pouson that if they did what was requested they would be gratifying someone who might be a shadow minister in the future.

The more aid that Malta received,

the committee states that Mr Maudling "would have been advised to let his interest in Malta be known to the House at a time when he was bound to be making frequent interventions about this island".

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On the resignation of Mr Maudling as Home Secretary when the police investigation into Mr Pouson's activities was announced, the committee quotes a section of the resignation letter which states: "I am promoting a matter in Parliament for reward: it is clear that he saw his activities in Parliament as among those that entitled him to be paid more generously than he was being paid."

The report says: "What your committee find objectionable is that Mr Cordle's conduct is that his motive in pressing the interests of The Gambia in the House was to further his own unprincipled commercial interests, that is to say, that he was raising a matter in Parliament for reward, and that he abused his membership of Parliament thereby.

This conduct they consider amounts to a contempt of the House.

which Mr Pouson and Mr Maudling were connected.

Mr Maudling did not declare an interest in the House, and he answered your committee that he genuinely believed that the house was necessary. Furthermore, Mr Maudling has subsequently obtained an opinion from Lord Mayhew-King, who was Speaker at the time that all Mr Maudling did in the debate "was to put forward a matter of public policy on which your party took a certain line and for which you acted as spokesman".

The committee considers that Mr Maudling's statement of the purposes of declaration being "a matter of prudence, in case a member should be suspected of having ulterior motives" is being appropriate in Mr Maudling's case. The committee is "satisfied that if the House had, shortly after the speech was made, become aware of the facts, they would have taken the view that a declaration ought to have been made; and to this extent Mr Maudling was at fault".

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of the financial arrangements it would have considered Mr Maudling's statement to have been lacking in frankness".

The report adds: "Your committee consider that in this respect Mr Maudling's conduct was inconsistent with the standards which the House is entitled to expect from its members."

Mr Cordle made an agreement with Mr Pouson and with Ropergate Services and during the period from March, 1964, to February, 1970, was paid £5,626. The committee states that neither the nature of the work nor the amounts of money involved were such that the arrangement could not have operated acceptably so far as Mr Cordle's membership of the House was concerned.

Mr Cordle did not declare a personal interest to the House, although he initiated an adjournment debate and later, in a letter to Mr Pouson setting out the ways in which his work had been of value to him, he said: "It was largely for the benefit of Construction Promotion that I took part in a debate in the House of Commons on The Gambia and pressed HMG to award construction contracts to British firms."

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Long, busy day for Queen on Tyneside

By Penny Symon

Muhammad Ali, the boxer, arrived in the North-east yesterday, promising that he was not trying to upset the Queen, who is there on a jubilee tour.

At £13,000, his trip, to raise money for boys' clubs, will cost more than the Queen's deliberately budget-conscious visit.

Officials are vague as to whether he will meet the Queen but both will be in Newcastle upon Tyne today.

In a very long, packed day yesterday, the Queen met a First World War veteran, launched a lifeboat, chaired with President Carter's mother-in-law, opened two new berths for West African trade on Tees Dock, and walked through Gateshead.

The Duke of Edinburgh, in cheery mood, chatted with shopkeepers while walking in a shopping precinct in Hartlepool. Mrs Alice Smith, aged 71, President Carter's mother-in-law, was in a party of Americans on a friendship change.

Also waiting to see the Queen was Mr Albert Johnson, aged 81, of Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, who won the Military Medal for gallantry in France in 1918. He was appointed to have received it through the post, rather than from the sovereign personally.

Yesterday, 60 years later, he showed the medal to the Queen, who clapped it to his chest.

The lifeboat Scout, which the Queen launched at Hardepool Dock, cost £230,000, half of which was raised in one week-end by Scouts.

In Middlesbrough, appropriately, the Duke of Edinburgh was presented with a miniature seaman's chest, fashioned with wood from the frigate Magpie, which he commanded in the Mediterranean in 1950.

Royal Tournament salute tonight to Princess Alice

Continued from page 1



Princess Alice: Last surviving granddaughter of Queen Victoria.

US nuclear reactor is favoured

By Pearce Wright

The American type of light water reactor is given a clear bill of health in a technical evaluation made for the Government by the National Nuclear Corporation. Three systems were examined to decide which would form the basis for the third construction programme of nuclear power stations by the Electricity Generating Board.

The two other designs are the advanced gas-cooled reactors, which are coming into operation upon completion of the second programme, and the steam generating heavy water reactors, now under development by the Atomic Energy Authority.

Although the review should reverse an earlier judgment that ruled out the light water reactor partly on safety grounds, the assessment has not produced a clear-cut economic case for the American type in preference to its established record in the advanced gas-cooled model. The final decision concerning the choice of a nuclear power installation rests, however, with the Nuclear Inspectors, which decides the terms and conditions for licensing reactors.

The board of the National Nuclear Corporation met yesterday to complete their report. Lord Aldington, chairman of the corporation, said he expected it to be with the Secretary of State for Energy next week.

One clear consequence of the assessment should be the end of the steam generating heavy water reactor. Ironically, this was the choice made by the Government two years ago, in preference to the American one and imposed on the Central Electricity Generating Board as the next nuclear station to be built at Sizewell, Suffolk.

The new nuclear power station would have marked the beginning of the third nuclear power station programme in Britain. When she wrote her book of memoirs for her grandchildren, she ended: "I am 82 and it is time to end this story of my life, of which I wanted to give you a slight picture to remind you of my grandmother on the stage. I feel too tidy, too, seeing young people in those strange clothes and with all that hair."

She explained: "I did not want to see the film *Nicholas and Alexandra*. After all, I knew them, and I do not like to see people who do not look like them pretending to be them. And do not want to see a travesty of my grandmother on the stage. I feel too tidy, too, seeing young people in those strange clothes and with all that hair."

As a result of the report of the Select Committee on the Civil List in 1971, £50,000 (the sum for the Privy Purse under class 1 of the 1952 Civil List and the only class that could be regarded as payment to the Queen, which she had offered to surrender) was made available for the official expenses of members of the Royal Family who received no grant from Parliament. That is, Princess Alice, the Duke of Gloucester, the Duke of Kent, and Princess Alexandra.

Although a traditionalist in royal duties, Princess Alice is no stick-in-the-mud in her private life. She made her first long-distance flight when she was over 90 and went to South Africa in January.

How inflation undermined the unions' faith**Decline and fall of a social contract**

By Alan Hamilton

The social contract, by Sir Harold Wilson and Mr Ian Murray, one of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, died nine days ago at the conference of the Transport and General Workers' Union at Douglas, Isle of Man, and was buried, quietly and without ceremony, at the Treasury earlier this week. Its passing was mourned by the Cabinet, but few rank-and-file trade unionists were at the graveside.

The contract was conceived on February 18, 1973, in a document "Economic policy and the cost of living", drawn up by the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee. It was brought into the world during the election campaign of February, 1974, but it had no birth certificate.

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The new nuclear power station would have marked the beginning of the third nuclear power station programme in Britain.

When she wrote her book of memoirs for her grandchildren, she ended: "I am 82 and it is time to end this story of my life, of which I wanted to give you a slight picture to remind you of my grandmother on the stage. I feel too tidy, too, seeing young people in those strange clothes and with all that hair."

She explained: "I did not want to see the film *Nicholas and Alexandra*. After all, I knew them, and I do not like to see people who do not look like them pretending to be them. And do not want to see a travesty of my grandmother on the stage. I feel too tidy, too, seeing young people in those strange clothes and with all that hair."

As a result of the report of the Select Committee on the Civil List in 1971, £50,000 (the sum for the Privy Purse under class 1 of the 1952 Civil List and the only class that could be regarded as payment to the Queen, which she had offered to surrender) was made available for the official expenses of members of the Royal Family who received no grant from Parliament. That is, Princess Alice, the Duke of Gloucester, the Duke of Kent, and Princess Alexandra.

Although a traditionalist in royal duties, Princess Alice is no stick-in-the-mud in her private life. She made her first long-distance flight when she was over 90 and went to South Africa in January.

campaign Mr Wilson spoke of "the great new social contract" between Government, industry and unions, which would resolve industrial disputes and bear in mind the rate of increase in average earnings at

HOW INSURANCE WORKS: 6.

Long day for Queen Tynesside

By Penny Sykes
arrived in the
terday, promising
now, trying to
Queen, who is
tour.

At £13,000, he
money for both
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ately budgeted.

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16% invested in factories, warehouses, shops and offices.

13% invested in mortgages and loans—both to help industry and individuals.

11% held as short-term assets, to meet immediate needs.

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INSURING BRITAIN'S FUTURE TODAY.

HOME NEWS

Manufacturers of anaesthetic machine were 'largely to blame' for accident at hospital, abridged report says

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

The manufacturers of an anaesthetic machine, who did not carry out their obligation to service it, must take a large part of the blame for the accident at Westminster Hospital, London, which resulted in permanent brain damage to Miss Elizabeth Shewan, aged 28, a teacher, an independent inquiry has found.

An abridged report of the private inquiry, in which no one is named, published yesterday decided that the anaesthetists and the surgeon were not to blame for the grievous damage caused when hoses to the machine were transferred so that nitrous oxide (laughing gas) was administered instead of oxygen.

Considerable blame must lie with two unknown people, one of whom did "a hunched-up repair" with a piece of tape, and the other who applied blue packing, which signified nitrous oxide, on an oxygen hose, the report says. Nursing staff, including a theatre sister and an engineer, are criticized, as are the hospital, the Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster Area Health Authority and the Department of Health for lack of communication and of clear policies on repairs.

Most of the inquiry's 22 recommendations have already been put into effect. Miss Shewan's father, Mr John Shewan, of Bearsted, Kent, and his solicitor have been refused a full copy of the report of the 19-day inquiry unless they give an undertaking, which they refuse to do, not to disclose its contents.

"I want the secrecy ended", Mr Shewan said yesterday. "It is my daughter who paid the cost. She will never take her place in society and is going to be in hospital for the next forty years."

Miss Shewan, a graduate of London University, had a gallbladder operation at the hospital. As a result of the mix-up with the hoses she is almost totally blind, has little memory or motivation and, according to her father, is "95 per cent damaged".

The authorities have admitted liability for the accident and a court hearing to settle damages is expected next year.

A director of Blease Anesthetic Equipment Ltd, of Chesham, Buckinghamshire, said yesterday that litigation was possible and the company was therefore not in a position to comment on anything which related directly to the incident.

Charges of "secrecy" and "whitewash" were immediately made against the shortened report, which was condemned as 30 from 38 pages. Dr Gerard Vaughan, MP, Tory spokesman on the social services, said it was wrong that the names of doctors should be suppressed. Names should be known, not as

part of a witch-hunt against individuals but because doctors must accept responsibility, and be seen to accept it, for tragic accidents or mistakes that occur in the course of their work.

Mr James Morris, a branch secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said the abridged report was a whitewash and his members would ask Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, to publish the full report. All engineers and fitters had already been instructed not to touch anaesthetic machines or piping. The technician and the cleaner mentioned in the report were both members of the union.

Miss Christine Bicknell, chairman of the area health authority, said it accepted without question the findings of the inquiry and the recommendations. They confirmed that the accident resulted from a tragic combination of circumstances, responsibility for which was shared among several people.

In a preamble to its recommendations, the inquiry report says that accidents in hospitals are rare; but unfortunately it is not widely appreciated by the public that safety can never be absolute. The level will always be relative to resources of staff and money.

The inquiry, when it first opened, had to adjourn sine die because nine of the doctors declined on legal advice to give oral evidence; later the nursing administrative and ancillary staff made similar decisions. It was reopened after agreement that all sessions should be in private.

On the day before the operation on Miss Shewan, the report says, a machine being used to polish the theatre floor caught the hoses and pulled them both off the Schrader valves on the anaesthetic machine.

The cleaner may have been careless but could not be blamed for what happened subsequently. The nurse to whom he reported the matter had only limited experience in theatre work.

She succeeded in connecting the oxygen supply to the nitrous oxide flowmeter. The nurse, the inquiry found, could not be blamed for trying to reconnect the hoses and, in fact, reconnecting one wrongly. She was trying to do her best and was positively misled by wrongly coloured packing material on the hose. Later the nurse told a technician, who failed to re-connect the hoses and informed an anaesthetist sister. The technician could not be blamed for trying to reconnect the hoses.

Having been told something about the hoses and having visited the theatre, it was surprising that the sister did not make further inquiries before removing the hoses and fitting a spare set.

She asked an engineer who normally carried out repairs to see if he could repair a



Elizabeth Shewan:
Irreparable brain damage.

damaged hose, but failed to inform him fully, particularly that spare hoses had been fitted so there was no real emergency.

He secured a reasonable fit but the nitrous oxide was connected to the oxygen valve. The sister could be criticized for not telling the engineer what had happened to the hoses and he could be criticized for the standard of the repair and for failing to make crystal clear to the sister that the hoses should be used for a minimum period.

The sister, having been given the hoses, asked a technician to fit them. Neither he nor the anaesthetist carried out a test after the hoses had been replaced. A later check by the sister would not have enabled

her to discover that the hoses had been wrongly connected. She could be excused for failing to tell the anaesthetist that the hoses had been replaced twice but, although she was busy, she could not be excused for taking no steps to have the repair checked by the manufacturers.

Seven operations were performed after the hoses had been replaced and wrongly connected, so that the proportions of nitrous oxide and oxygen were reversed. Four anaesthetists took part, and the question was: should any or all have been put on their guard by anything during the operations? Nothing unusual occurred during the first three. The patients for the remaining four showed varying degrees of lightness. The anaesthetists all undertook their usual check, but that was a quantitative test, which would not show up crossed hoses.

The inquiry conclusion was that the indications were insufficient to have alerted the doctors, and the four anaesthetists were not to blame for what happened to Miss Shewan.

Hers was the first operation on the next day, and a surgeon, an assistant and two anaesthetists took part. It was a major operation, which began at 8.30 am and ended at 9.35 am, and what was thought was 100 per cent oxygen was administered. Miss Shewan was having difficulty in breathing and again "100 per cent oxygen" was administered. At some time the source was changed from the anaesthetic machine to a cylinder.

Miss Shewan suffered a cardiac arrest but her condition improved later and she was transferred to intensive care.

No criticism could be levelled at the anaesthetist for the induction and anaesthesia which were unequal, nor could blame be attached to the surgeon. The inquiry had not found it easy to say whether the anaesthetists should have been put on inquiry about the gases, particularly as it was easy to be wise in hindsight.

In the end, and in the light of the then knowledge of hoses and anaesthetic machines and the tests the anaesthetists carry out, we find neither can be criticized or blamed for not making inquiries as to gases", the report says.

Another patient, who followed Miss Shewan on the operating table, underwent surgery with no trouble, but difficulties were experienced when "100 per cent oxygen" was administered. The patient, after treatment in intensive care, made a complete recovery.

The inquiry concluded that overall there was a serious lack of communication between all concerned about events between December 1974, when the hospital did not query why there

had been no service from the manufacturers, until the operations in February, 1975.

After the collapse of the second patient everyone acted promptly and correctly and the theatre was closed. An internal inquiry sat on February 25, 1975, and the hospital was not to blame for not inquiring more deeply into the incident, particularly in view of the sensible and speedy steps taken against any repetition of it.

The area health authority should, however, have told the Department of Health as soon as the incident occurred, instead of waiting until March 11, 1975.

The report criticizes the hospital and the manufacturers for slackness over the servicing of the machine. The hospital did not question why no service visit was made in December, 1974, or January, 1975, although the company was under contract to make four visits a year and had a legal duty to do so. If the service engineer had made a visit the fractured bone would probably have been replaced.

"We find that the manufacturer and the service engineer must share a large proportion of the blame for the incident", the report says.

On emergency repairs, the inquiry says a definite policy should have been laid down and that had now been done. It was plain from the evidence that there was more than a little slackness about the colour coding of hoses before February 1975. If it was to be used it must be used properly and be complete.

Referring to two deaths because hoses were transferred at Kent and Canterbury Hospitals in March, 1973, and a "hazard warning" sent out by the Department of Health, the report says that no one at Westminster Hospital really knew anything about the Kent incident. But in view of the possible ambiguity of the letter, blame could not be attached to the anaesthetist, although it was remarkable how few of the anaesthetists seemed to know anything about the warning at all.

More about the Kent incident, which was the first of the kind, should have been made known to people concerned in other hospitals.

The three manufacturers who took part in the inquiry knew about the recommendations in the Kent report, and the conclusion was that they had a duty at least to warn hospitals in writing about such matters.

Had the manufacturer of the anaesthetic machine written to Westminster Hospital, the hazard warning letter might have been fully implemented and the cause of the incident affecting Miss Shewan would have been avoided. It was plain that many people who should have seen the hazard letter of June 20, 1973, and other documents never saw them.

Inquiry call after advice by telephone on sick boy**Educationists attack core-curriculum plan**From Diana Gaddes
Education Correspondent
Brighton

is perhaps a longer race. We have been thinking about a very broad common core, almost but not quite a common curriculum, which would be capable of many translations to meet the children's different abilities and needs.

"For us this links with the maintenance of opportunity, the provision of a broad and liberating education, and the contribution education can make to the minds, senses and values of those who will run the country tomorrow."

"That was not incompatible with 'common core' as the term was being used, she suggested. Some elements would certainly come to both approaches:

But the group of inspectors who had produced the new papers on the 11-16 curriculum had shunned a subject-based analysis in favour of a framework of broad headings of types of study such as "ethical, linguistic, scientific, aesthetic", to which more than one subject would contribute and which was capable of being interpreted in various ways.

Dr Judge argued that what was needed was not a new curriculum but better curriculum. One of the key arguments in favour of the establishment of comprehensive schools was the increase of subjects that would bring, he said. Diversity, not conformity, was then the great virtue. That confident, free-wheeling view was now being challenged by a new consensus which demanded a single homogeneous curriculum in the belief that that would achieve higher standards and greater equality.

The common core would either be so small as to be meaningless or range so widely and be so precise as to be prescriptive and threatening. Although a former comprehensive school head, he was deeply disturbed to find that in many comprehensive schools the interests of able children were being neglected and the omnipresence of the curriculum was much to blame, he suggested. The "common-core unified ability" argument was working against the able child.

Hangars converted to take grain 'mountain'By Hugh Clayton
Agricultural Correspondent

are returned to their original owners after several months.

Last year the board paid more than £500,000 to producers of British grain "mountain" while producers of grain face an annual bill of £2m in helping to reduce the EEC wine "lakes". Those effects of EEC farm policy were disclosed in London yesterday.

The Intervention Board for Agricultural Policy, the arm of the Civil Service that administers the common agricultural policy in Britain, is installing drying and ventilating equipment in hangars and other large buildings, mostly in the east of England.

Mr Anthony Savage, the board's chief executive, said: "We are ready to take in substantial quantities from harvest time onwards."

There is no EEC limit to the amount of certain foods farmers can offer for purchase into intervention stores financed by the EEC. Prices are fixed centrally and certain conditions of quality and storage rates must be met.

At the end of last month the board held 5,917 tonnes of beef, 6,262 tonnes of butter and 21,232 tonnes of skim milk powder. Almost 28,000 tonnes of butter was held under another scheme in which stocks

Miners reject national pact on free coal concessions

Miners rejected the National Coal Board's free-coal deal, recommended by their executive, by 104,674 votes to 85,567 yesterday.

Areas voting against the proposal to allow all working miners eight tons a year and retired miners and widows five tons, included Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, South Derbyshire and Leicestershire.

Those miners complain that they will lose up to two tons a year because the national plan is inferior to present area agreements, and say any new scheme should be as good as the present best.

Miners in Scotland and Wales, who stood to benefit under the proposed national scheme, voted for it.

Mr Arthur Scargill, York-

Union will fight government transport policyBy John Young
Planning Reporter

A four-year plan for essential road and rail improvements in East London was outlined yesterday by Greater London Council as part of its policy for revitalizing the docklands.

Councillors and officials made clear that the plan is not just another scheme floated for debate and consultation but a definite statement of intention. It will go before the council's planning and communications policy committee next week and is virtually certain to be endorsed.

The plan, which includes a new Underground crossing of the Thames between Woolwich and Silvertown, will cost an estimated £55m. Assuming government approval, part of the cost may be met by a transport supplementary grant from the Exchequer.

However, both Mr Horace Cutler, the GLC leader, and Miss Sheila Roberts, the committee chairman, indicated that they were not prepared to dance attendance upon either the Government or the docklands joint committee, which represents the GLC and the five dockland boroughs. If necessary, it was suggested, the council would go it alone.

Mr Cutler accused Mr Shore, Secretary of State for Transport, of "passing the buck" to British Rail. He would talk to MPs sponsored by the GLC and the five boroughs who will help us to right the wrongs of the docklands, he said.

Mr Cutler said it was time for Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, to stop dithering on the issue. The Government should make up its mind about how much financial backing it was prepared to give, and when.

Last Tuesday, Mr Shore told the council that the extra £1m allocated to London for inner-city renewals could not be spent on extending the new Underground line eastwards from Charing Cross.

Miss Roberts admitted disappointment but emphasized yesterday that the present plan

Businessman sentenced for corruption

Ivor Leslie Cook, aged 43, businessman with interests in investment, a garage, a grocery store and restaurant, pleaded guilty at Cardiff Crown Court yesterday to three charges of corruption. He was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment suspended for two years and fined £6,000.

But the plan does call for some work on the line to begin immediately, notably the proposed Woolwich - Silvertown tunnel, which would relieve one of the area's historic disadvantages, poor communications between the north and south river banks. The line through the tunnel would connect with British Rail's North Woolwich line, which would be transferred to London Transport.

The other main public transport project would be the improvement and renovation of the east London Underground Line between New Cross and Shoreditch and its extension to Liverpool Street. In the long term the council would also like to see a further extension from New Cross to Lewisham, and a new line westward from Stratford to link with the North London Line from Broad Street to Richmond.

The council's road proposals do not envisage any large-scale new routes but concentrate mainly on relieving bottlenecks, notably on the north side of Tower Bridge, the southern end of the Rotherhithe Tunnel, and the approaches to the A2 in Deptford and Lewisham.

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Girl murder charge
Peter Colin Hunter, age 18, a labourer, of Paradise, Doncaster, arrested on suspicion of the murder of Heidi Ellen Roper, aged 14, on December 13,

Newspaper chief denies opposing closed shopBy Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Lord Gibson, chairman of the Pearson Longman group, which owned the Westminster Press chain of newspapers, said yesterday that he was not opposed to a closed shop if it was brought about by persuasion and not by pressure.

Westminster Press is engaged in a dispute with members of the National Union of Journalists centred on Darlington over a closed shop. "I want to emphasize", he said, "that a 100 per cent NUJ membership is perfectly acceptable now in the Westminster Press group as far as I am concerned, and indeed exists in some of their offices."

Lord Gibson continued: "There is no sinister intention of denying journalists the power

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PARLIAMENT, July 14, 1977

Mr Callaghan foreshadows more talks with trade unions after the Chancellor's statement on pay

House of Commons

There would be no White Paper at this moment on pay policy, the Prime Minister disclosed at question time.

He had been asked by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition (Barnet, Finchley, C): What is the position on the White Paper? That there will be no White Paper tomorrow but that there will be a statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Does that mean no White Paper at all?

Mr James Callaghan (Cardiff, South-East, Lab) — It means no White Paper at this moment.

Conservative laughter and cries of "Chicken". I do not know what it means.

It means that having gone through the statement that the Chancellor will make tomorrow (Friday) it will be perfectly adequate if it is reproduced in Hansard the next day. That is all.

Mrs Thatcher — That is a major change in what we have been led to expect. Is that your pay policy?

It looks as though we shall be having a minor Budget statement. Is not the answer to my first question that the Prime Minister has abandoned the idea of having a White Paper before any economic debate?

Mr Callaghan — No. The statement tomorrow will contain a statement on pay and proposals that the Chancellor will put before the House in the Finance Bill next week, and has been done in this way for convenience.

As to whether there will be a White Paper in due course, it is anticipated that the Cabinet will consider later on (cries of "When?") in the autumn, why not? (Conservative interruptions.)

This is an awful lot of fuss about very little. If I had not known the Opposition's capacity for nit-picking, I would have expected some consultation on saving money on printing.

Mr Neil Kinnock (Bedford, Lab) — Can he give an assurance on the basis of his discussions this week that in the pay policy in the forthcoming year workers in the public sector will be at no disadvantage by comparison with the private sector?

Mr Callaghan — I do not wish to anticipate that statement the Chancellor will make tomorrow.

Mr Sydney Bidwell (Ealing, Southall, Lab) — Will he recall that he was once the odd man out in a

previous administration on this matter. He has said previously that if the state intervenes too vigorously on pay matters it is the public sector workers who inevitably get clobbered.

Mr Callaghan — Yes. That is why I am in favour whenever we can get it by agreement of a pay policy. It is the fairest way of trying to distribute awards in any modern industrial society. Otherwise the private sector would get left out.

(Interruptions.) It has got to be a democracy. The Government have to work within the confines of the agreement that they secure.

Mr Arthur Lewis (Newham, North-West, Lab) — What about beer? It goes up every three months.

Mr Callaghan — Mr Lewis looks well on it. (Laughter.)

He later added: I am sorry we were not able to make the statement today, but the House must accept that there are considerable problems which have to be overcome.

Conservative MPs — Have we denied it?

Last Thursday Mr Callaghan told us that it was not intact. Yesterday, in a written reply, he told me it was not broken. What has happened? Is it dead or did somebody just quietly cut its throat?

Mr Callaghan — Knowing the care with which Mr Tubbitt framed his question, I do not want to go into any details in reply to the exact words he used. Hence the difference in the definition he has quoted. I have tried never to give him an opening if I can possibly avoid it.

On the social contract I have been referring to my mind, particularly with the contents of that document.

A Conservative MP — Where is it?

Mr Callaghan — especially in that part which says that Government policies will continue to be worked out especially in collaboration with, and after discussion with, the trade unions.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, UU) — Will Mr Callaghan refuse to be dismayed by the course of the Government's discussions with the TUC, and hold fast to the principle that the Government's main aim should be to increase the pay of the workers?

Mr Callaghan — I partially agree with Mr Powell. (Shows of "Which part?") The part which says that free collective bargaining can be restored without endangering the object of a reduced rate of inflation.

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Surrender ruse on securities retained

House of Lords

Opening a debate on the 25 per cent surrender rule, Sir Alexander Herdman, Lord Temperton, said a reduction to 10 per cent could well double the volume of business carried out in the United Kingdom overseas portfolio.

He asked whether the Government would reconsider their position regarding the 25 per cent surrender rule, bearing in mind the importance of the interest in the interests of maintaining London as a major centre for the international securities industry.

He said there was growing evidence that the existing London market in foreign currency securities was in such a precarious state that an early relaxation of the rules was necessary to ensure its continued existence. A sizable reduction in the surrender requirement would stimulate the volume of business executed thus bringing in additional overseas earnings to the benefit of the reserves.

Mr Foot (Ashbourne, C) said he supported Lord Terrington's proposal for a reduction to 10 per cent as a half way house to the abolition of the surrender rule.

The surrender rule was introduced in 1965 as a temporary measure. Its survival under successive administrations demonstrated that this was not a party matter. The cost to the Government if it was wholly abolished would only be £17m.

Vicount Amory (C) said this rule was a rigid restriction imposed as a temporary necessity at a time of severe dollar-strenght exchange trouble. It could only be justified by such circumstances. The current position no longer justified such a relic of a siege economy.

Lord Cullen of Ashbourne (C) said he supported Lord Terrington's proposal for a reduction to 10 per cent as a half way house to the abolition of the surrender rule.

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Mr Foot (Ashbourne, C) said he supported Lord Terrington's proposal for a reduction to 10 per cent as a half way house to the abolition of the surrender rule.

Mr Christopher Price (Lewisham, East, Lab) — Will Mr Foot say what he can do to improve the arrangements for private members' time before any further consideration is given to the matter?

Mr Price — Miss Jeanne Richardson (Barking, Lab) — Will Mr Foot recognize the large body of distinguished

medical opinion in this country, as well as the huge numbers of the public and the overwhelming majority to be allowed for further time for the Abortion (Amendment) Bill?

Mr Roger Meale (Faversham, C) — There is a considerable log jam of private members' legislation. Can Mr Foot say, for example, in relation to the Abortion (Amendment) Bill whether he has any intention of providing extra time or Government time?

Mr Foot (Ebbw Vale, Lab) — There is a considerable log jam, and that is not abnormal. The Government has proposed to extend the time available for private members' Bills.

Mr Hill Wright (Birmingham, Edgbaston, C) — Will Mr Foot provide time available for the Abortion (Amendment) Bill as the Government did in 1966 for the original Bill, the Abortion Bill, bearing in mind that it is the result of two years' work of the committee?

Mr Robert Mellish (Southwark, Bermondsey, Lab) — It is an extraordinary concept of democracy that everything possible is done to make sure that this House is not allowed to finish this matter.

There are many MPs who recognize that there should always be a free vote on this matter and are prepared to support those who would do everything to ensure the matter is not finalised.

Mr Foot — It is sometimes said that because matters of this kind have been passed at second reading it must automatically be the case that time must be found for the eventual discussions on the Bill.

That has not been the case in this House, but we do not believe it could be made a rule without infringing the rights of other MPs. He knows that as well as I do.

Mr Mellish — Capital punishment

More effective control of police overtime

There was no intention that a new system for control of overtime in the Metropolitan Police should be a "way station" on the road to a complete ban on overtime.

Mr Christopher Price (Lewisham, East, Lab) — Had Mr Rees asked if Mr Rees could say what was happening over overtime?

Mr Michael Alison, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Barking, East, C) — Can the Home Secretary categorically say that there is no change in the operational needs of the force?

Mr Rees — I have not issued any directive on this. The Commissioner has recently decided, as a matter of good management, to

introduce a new and more effective system for the control of overtime in the force.

The financial provision for overtime in the force as a whole this year is the same as that made last year and is a minimum that there is no change in the operational needs of the force.

Mr Alison — I am a member of the force and I am in a similar position.

Mr Michael Alison, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Barking, East, C) — Can the Home Secretary categorically say that there is no change in the operational needs of the force?

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WEST EUROPE

**Amerigo Carrillo again
on shores Moscow to
introduce its own business**

Our Own Correspondent
July 14

Santiago Carrillo, the Communist Party leader, has said that he is introducing his "own business" to Moscow.

The Government, who have been seeking to clear up the mystery of Mr. Carrillo's disappearance, have said that he is neither a renegade nor a traitor, nor anti-Soviet, but a "sider" who wants certain things to be cleared up.

The Government held an interview with Carrillo last night, but violence has been threatened by television and other sources.

This comes after Carrillo's speech at the European Parliament, in which he called for the realization of socialism in Europe.

Carrillo said that the former occupation of Spain by the Soviet Union was necessary for the independence of Spain.

An Opposition spokesman said: "There is very little chance that the Soviet tanks will ever be withdrawn from Spain."

Spanish Communists, who have been supporting the Soviet tanks, have now decided to leave them.

Carrillo said: "We must be ready to fight them,"

and the Spanish people are ready to do so.

"Bourgeois propaganda, asserting that participation of communist parties in West European governments will create bigger problems for the Soviet block than for NATO," does not itself believe in this thesis," the weekly said.

"Were it otherwise, Atlantic politicians would hardly be panic-stricken after each electoral success of communists," the article said, as summarized by Tass.

Rumours spread by Western propaganda concerning Moscow's lack of confidence in the West European communist parties could have only one purpose—an attempt to set the communists at loggerheads," it said.

The Soviet Communist Party, as shown by many of its documents and policy declarations, entertains full confidence in its class brothers and comrades-in-arms.

New Times acknowledged that some differences of opinion did exist between Moscow and the West European communists. "But in the final analysis no one ought to forget that discussions between communist parties are conducted on how to rid people of the exploiting system more efficiently," Reuter and UPI.



President Giscard d'Estaing acts as guide for visitors to the Elysée Palace, opened to the public on Bastille Day.

A rare Bastille Day look inside the Elysée

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, July 14

It is remarkable in this television age that so many tourists, of Parisians, with a strong contingent of foreign tourists, turn out each year to watch and cheer the traditional fly-past of jets drawing a triangle in smoke in the overcast sky.

M. Giscard d'Estaing, with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence on either side of him, was surrounded by representatives of the Government, Parliament, and other bodies, including the Municipality of Paris.

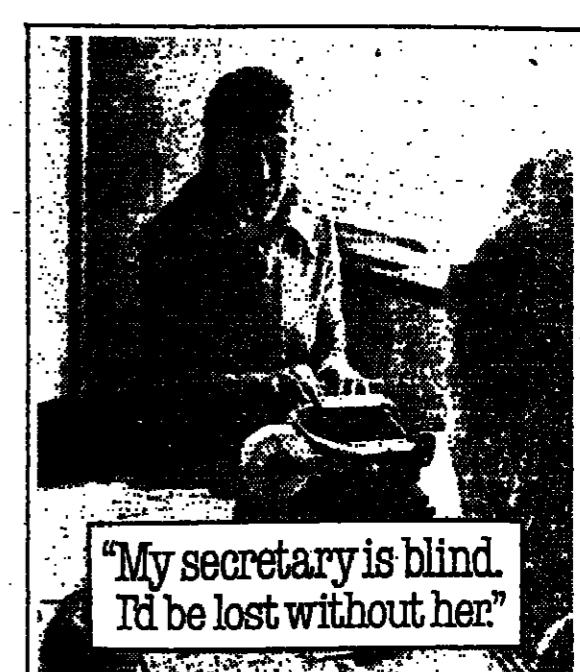
What promised to be another protocol imbroglio, over the place in the grand stand of M. Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, was

avoided. According to the Republican Protocol of 1968, which still obtains, the President of the Paris Council should be given the 21st place, four rows back. But M. Chirac was seated in the front row, just after the Government, next to the diplomatic corps, and honour was saved.

After the parade, the President held the equally traditional reception at the Elysée Palace, at which ministers, ambassadors, generals, admirals and senior officials rubbed shoulders in temporary republican equality with many lower ranks and police constables, crowding round the mammoth buffets.

And this afternoon for three hours the Presidential residence was thrown open to the public. The first few among the 10,000 who got in were welcomed by President Giscard d'Estaing himself. Many had put on their Sunday best and come with bouquets of flowers. Others among the thousands that queued had to be turned away.

July 14 was celebrated in Paris and the provinces by the traditional street balls. These were staged in front of railway stations, town halls, and some fire stations. And, of course, on the site of the Bastille, where it all started.



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spanish police face court martial

From Harry Deobles
State, Madrid, July 14

A band of policemen who attacked a group of demonstrators in an unauthorized protest in Madrid have been sentenced to 18 months to 10 years if they are convicted at a court martial to be held in Madrid

on Wednesday. Together 13 members of the National Security police and the paramilitary Civil Guard have been held on charges of sedition, or assaulting superior officers and threatening. The charges arise

from a police demonstration in Madrid on December 17 last, which ended with several people being injured, including assaulting an army general outside the office of the Prime Minister.

Police are considered to be

men, they will be represented by military defence counsellors.

They are not allowed to be defended by civilian lawyers.

The first eight to be tried include four Civil Guards and four members of the security police. The Civil Guards could be sentenced to from four to six years imprisonment and the security police to from 18 months to 10 years.

One of the defendants in next Wednesday's trial has also been indicted on another charge and will be tried again later in connection with the same incident.

The police demonstrators

marched from the square in front of the Oriente Palace, the traditional site of pro-Franco rallies, to the Prime Minister's office on Castellana Avenue.

Their demands, which were met subsequently by the Government of Senor Suárez, included a pay rise of 10,000 pesetas (about £58 at current exchange rates) per month, and retirement on full pay.

Madrid, July 14.—The Democratic Centre Union of Senor Suárez today sided with the opposition Socialists in the first important vote of the new Spanish parliament.

The Socialists had proposed that the status of parliamentary group should be limited to parties having at least 15 deputies. Small parties wanted the number reduced to five.

With the support of the Centre Union, the Socialist proposal was carried by 233 votes to 61.

—Reuter.

In presenting the proposal, Mr. Finn Olay Gundelach, the Commissioner responsible for fisheries, also informed governments that he would keep the stock position under review next year and might propose a further extension of the ban into 1979.

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Finally, the Commission proposes that fishing for Norway pout should be forbidden between August 1 and October 31 of this year in an area off the north-east coast of Britain lying between latitudes 56°N. and 60°N. and longitudes 0°W. and 4°W.

The purpose of this ban, which was introduced for about 10 weeks earlier in the year, would be to prevent the destruction of large quantities of immature haddock unavoidably caught in the course of fishing for pout.

Meanwhile, in Luxembourg, the European Court of Justice today made public its decision of last night ordering Ireland to suspend by midnight next Sunday unilaterally imposed fishing restrictions in Irish waters.

The court ruled that the curbs were discriminatory because they affected hardly any Irish boats.

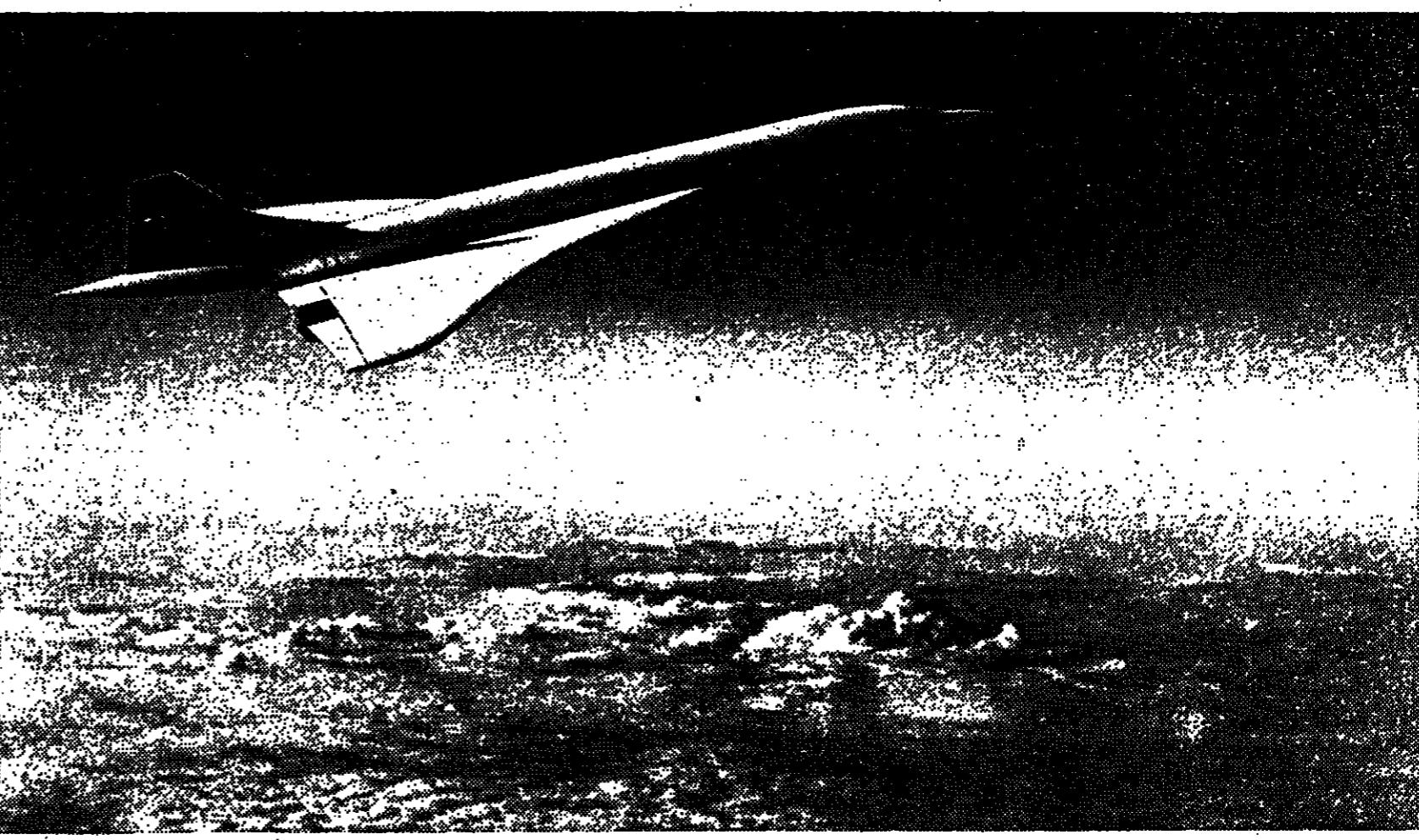
The court says that Ireland may "adopt in the sea areas within its jurisdiction any other measures intended to ensure the protection of fish stocks which are in accordance with the provisions of Community law and with the objectives of the common fisheries policy," but only with the consent of the Commission.

Citing statistics collected by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas, the Commission said that total herring stocks in the North Sea had fallen during the past year from 1,200,000 tonnes to no more than 300,000 tonnes, of which the reproductive component was only 150,000 tonnes.

The herring catch in the North Sea has declined from 497,500 tonnes in 1972 to less than 170,000 tonnes last year, according to the Commission.

In its view any further fishing for herring "would seriously threaten the survival not only of the species but of the fishing industry itself".

The proposed ban would per-

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AIR FRANCE

£100m fraud attempt on French bank

From Our Own Correspondent
London, July 14

French Government sought his extradition on a charge that he obtained promissory notes by deceit from the Société Générale, Toulouse, during May.

Toulouse police alleged that the two arrested bank officials, M. André Peuchot and M. Michel Ruffin, were approached in April by a man who announced that he was the European agent of oil-rich Gulf sheikhs.

According to the police, he said the sheikhs were thinking of depositing more than \$500m with the branch for a period of about 10 years. The first payment was to be \$250m and the bank officials were promised a commission, police alleged. Agence France-Presse.

Remanded in custody, M. Messaca was remanded in custody at Bow Street, London, yesterday for a week when the

prosecution failed to produce

any evidence of his guilt.

London, July 14.—The

house, July 14.—The in-

vestigation of a City of London

attempt to produce \$200m (£117m)

at a moment's notice

from the Société Générale

from becoming the victim

of a multi-million-dollar fraud,

has been reported here today.

Two officials of the state-owned French bank yesterday as well as two

people in the Toulouse

police who were not identified

said the attempted fraud,

which at least \$200m were at

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Messaca, a Frenchman,

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OVERSEAS

Dr Owen's settlement initiative is breaking down over Cabinet and Salisbury opposition

By David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent

It looks as if the latest British initiative on Rhodesia is going the way of all the previous efforts to reach a settlement on the rocks.

Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, has had two pieces of bad news in the past few days, which makes his visit to Washington next week a rather desperate, if not despairing, attempt to find a way forward.

The bad news is that some of Dr Owen's closest Cabinet colleagues are opposed to his policy of providing a British presence in Rhodesia to hold the ring between blacks and whites before majority rule and that Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, means what he said this past weekend in rejecting the British proposals.

It is not so surprising that the Cabinet is doubtful about Dr Owen's plans. His predecessor, Anthony Crosland, for all his intellectual reputation, secured backing for the idea of a British presence to supervise

the transfer of power only with great difficulty, and that at a time, last November, when negotiations were actually taking place in Geneva.

It appears not just to British troops joining some outside peace-keeping force, which the Foreign Secretary is understood to have put forward; it is also extremely sceptical about the idea of a British civil presence in the interim period.

Dr Owen was feeling extremely depressed about the prospects last weekend, but his hopes rose momentarily on Monday when he received a report of the talks in Salisbury from Mr John Graham and Mr Stephen Low, leaders of the Anglo-American consultative team. They indicated that Mr Smith was prepared to accept a constitution based on one man one vote, and the crux of the problem now was the interim arrangements—with the thought that if a Commonwealth peace-keeping force would not work some other

scheme might be devised. If this were so, Dr Owen might well have come back to his colleagues with new arguments for taking what was seen as a heavy risk. But Mr Smith sent a message to London, it was learnt yesterday, confirming the extremely negative comments made by his spokesman in Salisbury the same day that Mr Graham was reporting a more constructive outlook.

This message, sent through Mr Smith's representative in Pretoria, has put paid to the last hope that Mr Smith's criticisms were designed merely for public consumption.

Hence Dr Owen is left in the very awkward position of having his policy damped down in London and not catching fire in Salisbury. It may be that with Mr Vance, the American Secretary of State, who has recently been counselling caution, a new approach will be found. The present inclination among British policymakers is to sit tight and await developments.

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Dr Owen's plans. His predecessor, Anthony Crosland, for all

his intellectual reputation,

secured backing for the idea of

a British presence to supervise

25 years of fighting against apartheid

From Our Own Correspondent

Johannesburg, July 14

Mrs Helen Suzman, the radical conscience of white South African politics and for years the lone parliamentary standard bearer for multi-racialism, today celebrated her silver jubilee as an MP when she addressed her constituents in Houghton.

During the 25 years since she first entered Parliament she has become a symbol of democracy in a country which, in her words, "has the impertinence to call itself a democracy". She has been awarded more honorary doctorates by foreign universities than anyone else in South African politics.

For 12 of those years she stood in Parliament as the sole member for the Progressive Party. But she soldiered on until 1974 when her party won six seats, a figure which was soon doubled after the merger with the Reform Party to form the Progressive Reform Party.

Now, three years later, the PRP stands to gain another six seats from dissident members of the former United Party which will put it within striking distance of becoming the official opposition.

Mrs Suzman acknowledges that her persistent harrying of the Government has not been able to prevent the passage of a single oppressive law.

No tax increases in Rhodesian budget

From Frederick Cleary

Salisbury, July 14

Rhodesians were told today that despite rising defence costs and the depressed economy they would not be taxed any more heavily in the year ahead.

Mr David Smith, Minister of Finance, said when he presented his annual budget that there would be no significant taxation changes, but the next 12 months would be difficult. He has budgeted for a deficit of \$67,400,000 (£39,600,000) a slight increase on the previous year's figure of \$59,700,000 (£31,100,000).

He told Parliament that he had no doubt the country would emerge stronger and as resilient as ever. The lack of important tax changes indicates another mini-budget in the middle of the financial year. There have already been two in the last two years. Tax has been increased three times during the past 18 months to meet increased defence costs.

Economic observers believe a deficit budget today indicates that the Government is hoping for a political settlement which would greatly improve the financial climate and bring in increased capital. Mr Ian Smith has budgeted for a total expenditure of \$816,800,000 in the next 12 months, an overall increase of only 11 per cent. Spending in ministries unconnected with defence has been severely curtailed in the past year while the defence

Such a group could claim support throughout the country and from Rhodesia's Western friends, Mr Reynolds said. Whoever rejected or abused this national government would be exposed as evil men—terrorists in the full meaning of the word—intent on personal power through the NUF.

The nationalist organization led by the Rev Ndaabingi Sithole today demanded the release of all political detainees, the dismantling of protected villages and said that all captured guerrillas should be accorded the status of prisoner-of-war under the Geneva conventions.

A spokesman said that the group would be willing to join its former enemy, the "colonial power", to prevent a communist takeover in Rhodesia.

The total black-out that hit New York could not happen in London, or in any other large British city, Electricity Council officials said last night.

This may be of little comfort after the New York Mayor's statement that he had been assured there could be no repetition of the city's black-out of 12 years ago, but there is a crucial difference in the systems that power New York and London.

Britain is powered by a nationalized industry with a national grid system, whereas New York's electricity is provided by several private companies. Britain's unified system enables a constant watch to be kept on loading throughout the system, and means that a sudden extra load caused by a short circuit or other fault can be diverted, and the area



A man reaches through the broken windows of a jeweller's shop in Brooklyn, New York, yesterday after the steel grilles had been torn down.

Electricity firm faces huge bills

Continued from page 1

delicatessens got out their candles and spirit lamps and did a brisk trade in sandwiches and water melons.

After initial expressions of panic and criticism, New Yorkers left their stifling apartments and sat on their porches during the night, quietly drinking and smoking.

People with flashlights directed the traffic which was light and obedient.

The New York Times contrived a skimpy "blackout edition" adorned with a sombre photograph of Lower Manhattan and printed at its unaffected New Jersey plant.

Power was gradually restored to the city, district by district, but officials said some people would not have electricity again until tomorrow.

Car commuters who missed news of the black-out encountered a working day New York steeped in holiday torpor. None

of the city's main businesses was functioning, including the stock exchange, commodity markets and banks, whose computer runs have been thrown into chaos by their broken schedules.

Consolidated Edison was found to have inadequate facilities in an inquiry after the last blackout in 1965. It is already coming in for its share of criticism. "We cannot tolerate in this age of modern technology a power system that can shut down the nation's largest city because of a bolt of lightning in Westchester County," Mr Beane said.

After the last blackout Consolidated Edison had to pay out millions of dollars in compensation. Thousands of people claimed for ruined food in freezers and 20,000 were paid for wasted theatre tickets when performances were cancelled.

The electricity company has a mechanism that is supposed to activate itself and prevent overloaded circuits. But this system failed last night. "Frankly, we don't know why it didn't work," Mrs Joyce Tucker, an assistant vice-president of the company said. "There will be an autopsy after autopsy after autopsy."

Total blackout 'could not hit London'

By Christopher Warman

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affected isolated.

There is not the same coordination and for New York the result is a "cascade", in which the load from one area switches to another before it can be isolated, and the chain reaction leads to a total breakdown before anything can be done to prevent it.

The British system includes a series of trip switches, making it a simple matter for the engineer watching the various loads at any time to isolate a power failure. One area may suffer but there could never be a total black-out, experts asserted last night.

Since the 1965 New York black-out, coordination between the various power companies has become better, but it will not be improved sufficiently to rule out recurrences until 1980, it is believed. British officials characterized the New York system as "pretty lousy".

The statement also said that a commission to draft a constitution would be appointed by April 19 next year and that the document itself should be ready by October. A constituent assembly to consider the draft would be appointed the following month.

This assembly was expected to complete its work by March 1979, and the elections could then be held on June 15, the statement said.

British reaction: Ghana's professional bodies recently called an indefinite strike to press demands for an early return to civilian rule.

Three demonstrators and an army officer were killed yesterday in a clash between students and security forces, according to unconfirmed reports.

Four people, including two children, were officially stated to have been killed by cross-fire on Tuesday in the Andean city of Huancayo. Two of 22 seriously wounded died later.

Steep rises were announced late last month in the price of food, public transport and petrol in an effort to placate the International Monetary Fund with whom the Peruvian Government is negotiating a standby credit of \$50m to \$100m in order to tackle a serious financial crisis.

Reuter

10 killed in Peru price rise demonstrations

From Moshe Brilliant

Tel Aviv, July 14

Mr Haim Levi, the prisons commissioner, admitted tonight that warders had used excessive force recently against prisoners in Beersheba jail.

According to a report on Israel television, the commissioner claimed the prisoners had seen someone stabbed to death about a fortnight ago and were refusing to help investigators. An inquiry committee will report on the incident to Dr Yosef Burg, the Minister of the Interior, this weekend.

Wives of prisoners broke into a meeting of the parliamentary interior committee in Jerusalem earlier this week and protested that their husbands had been mauled, beaten and kicked by warders.

More than 30 MPs from various parties later wrote to the minister asking him to set up a parliamentary committee to investigate conditions in the prison.

We have programmed this after the presentation of the report of the Ad-Hoc Committee which we expect will clearly set out the form of Government in clear terms, the matter will be subjected to a referendum for the people of Ghana to choose between Union or National Government and other forms of Government. Indeed whether the Army and the Police should be included or left out of any future Government is entirely a matter for you, the people, to decide. To prove our sincerity, we have asked the Ad-Hoc Committee to submit its report within three months. A referendum will be held within six months from that date to decide on the Union or National Government or any form of Government. These steps we pledge to honour faithfully. Thereafter, depending on the choice of the people, a constituent assembly will be set up to draft the relevant Constitution under which elections should be held and the transfer of power effected. In order to allay the fears and anxiety of the people of Ghana and to demonstrate our sincerity on the pledge we have been making to the country that it is not our intention to hold on to power indefinitely, it is envisaged that, given an uninterrupted implementation of this programme, the process of transfer of power should be completed as soon as practicable.

Fellow Ghanaians, I need not stress that this country needs peace and stability and that this can only be achieved through a systematic and orderly transfer of power from this present regime to another. We appeal to all and sundry to cooperate to make this exercise a success. May God defend the Right!

From David Cross

Washington, July 14

Mr Harry Knoche, the deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has submitted his resignation to President Carter amid reports that a reshuffle of senior staff in the organization is imminent.

A CIA spokesman has confirmed that Mr Knoche, the senior career official, handed in his resignation earlier this month to take effect on August 1. But he denied press reports that two senior officials of the agency's clandestine operations branch and 20 of their subordinates were under pressure to resign.

Nevertheless, Mr Knoche has

Russia confident of Belgrade success

From Dessa Tresman

Belgrade, July 14

The Soviet Union has no doubts about the proposals of the unaligned delegates, the West has already let it known that it considers the meeting, which is preparing the ground for a conference on European security and cooperation, was progressing satisfactorily. Good results had been achieved so far.

He made the statement after diplomats reported last night that a basic agreement on the conference agenda had been reached.

Russia wants to avoid thorough examination of human rights issue which West and the neutrals insist upon.

What precipitated change in the Soviet position is not known, but the demand by Malta that the non-aligned countries should play a far greater role than either East or West would, accent, may have contributed to it.

There has been some concern that Malta could put another obstacle by pushing the proposal to discuss Mediterranean problems, which would introduce Cyprus and Israel conflict, Cyprus and military build-up of the super powers in the Mediterranean into the agenda.

Nuclear test ban talks set a brisk pace

From Our Own Correspondent

Geneva, July 14

The preliminary negotiations on a treaty banning all nuclear tests continued today, the delegations from the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union meeting this time at the offices of the American diplomatic mission.

No one expects that it will do so, if President Carter decides to recommend its deployment. He said two days ago that he ordered an evaluation of the needs of the neutron bomb and its effects and will give the results of the study to Congress.

An amendment banning a neutron bomb was defeated yesterday by 58 votes to 57. The debate lasted all day. Some Senators, who voted against the bomb, two weeks ago when the subject was raised, changed their views.

One of them, Senator Hub Humphrey, said: "I have faith in the President and am convinced that he will make a right decision." Senator Joe Stennis, chairman of the arms services committee, who supported the President's decision, said that this was "a most important international issue and we should not put off a crippling strings on the president."

The debate was on a proposed weapons finance Bill, which includes provisions for the building of the fast breeder reactor at Clinch River, Tennessee.

The chief United States delegate, Mr Paul Warke, head of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, has said that whether or not the Chinese and French choose to ignore a ban initially of limited duration in any case is of little consequence.

Bonn and Washington bury differences at talks

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, July 14

After two rounds of official talks and a state dinner at the White House, President Carter and West German Chancellor, appear to have buried their differences and established a good working relationship. The only concrete achievement of the deliberations is a decision to try to stimulate the stalled East-West negotiations on troop reductions.

Earlier disagreements over economic policy, nuclear non-proliferation and human rights have been replaced by what appears to be a genuine determination to pull together in resolving problems in the West.

This, at least was the impression left by Herr Schmidt when he attended a luncheon at the National Press Club here today.

It was quite likely, he said, that new initiatives on force reductions in central Europe originating from the talks here would be put to the Soviet Union and its allies later this year.

A statement put out later by the White House said: "The small differences between the two governments in recent months have often been exaggerated in public accounts and both men committed themselves to be in direct touch with one another in the future to make sure that exaggeration does not recur."

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Term of Bordello can hold out against Best Offer's potential

Ascot; and Mallard Song who finished second to lead first at Leicestershire Tuesday night.

Leicester's, whose breeders are now concentrated in the last three weeks. Until he had had only one since he scored at Salisbury, his well-chosen and unplaced. An owner, Mr. S. J. Salter, had been racing for life. He has been racing for five occasions, and has made a supplement to his racing post.

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SPORT

Rugby Union

Injuries force Lions to play Windsor as emergency prop

Hawthorn, New Zealand, July 14.—The British Lions have chosen a strong team including 10 of their victorious side in the second internationals for their emergency tour match against Wallabies on Saturday.

The strength of the side is perhaps surprising for, although Wallabies have a strong rugby tradition, they have been going through a period in recent years and are now considered to be in the division of the New Zealand national provincial championships.

However, the Lions may have been swayed by several improved performances by Wallabies this season including one by the strong Auckland side. A feature of the Lions' selection is the drafting in of Welsh hooker, Windsor, as an emergency prop forward. Windsor has played many games for Pontypool at prop and he will play tighthead on Saturday because of injuries to Price and Cotton.

RFU's left hand does not know what right is doing

Four leading northern clubs have asked the Rugby Union to call a special meeting as soon as possible to consider the future of the northern meeting-table: Harlepool Rovers, Middlesbrough, Huddersfield and Sheffield failed to be elected for next season's table. Bradford and Salford, who finished bottom of the table last season, were not re-elected. West Hartlepool, Manchester, Hull and East Riding, Manchester, Hull and Morley are the new clubs for next season.

Welsh RFU

No mixed-race rugby at club level

Johannesburg, July 14.—Piet Koornhof, the South African Sports Minister, has decided there has been an change in South African policy on mixed-race sport.

Asked to comment on a statement by Abdul Abass, president of the non-racial South African Rugby Union (SARU), that he had rejected a proposal for mixed club rugby, Dr Koornhof said: "I am sorry that he had made no firm decision."

Mr Abass said on Monday that Dr Koornhof had told a meeting of South African rugby chiefs that mixed race rugby would not be allowed in the future. Mr Abass said SARU would not allow its players to take part in trials for selection of a multi-racial South African team to play at world XV.

This rejection does not necessarily mean the trials for the representative team will not go ahead. Members of two organisations known as the Leopards (Black) and the Proteas (Coloured) have been invited to take part. Their attitude is not yet known.

Rugby League

Watkins to play in final match despite injury

Sydney, July 14.—David Watkins, the Great Britain coach, will play despite a broken finger in Britain's final Rugby League tour game against New South Wales next Sunday. Watkins has been forced to play because a stomach upset has ruled out G.H. the Salford centre. Watkins, who dashed over for two tries,

will again turn out at full back.

Britain are anxious to win Sunday's match and atom for their crushing 35-5 defeat by New South Wales. "We just have to finish the tour on a winning note," said Watkins, who is also team manager. "The ladies are really fired for a maximum effort and the Gosford crowd can look forward to a super game from us," he added.

Ward, who missed the world champion final against Australia, has returned to replace Elwell, who hooked against Australia and New South Wales. Hogan is back in the pack and will partner Bowman in the second row, while Casey,

Maccabiah Games

US swimmers take four gold medals

Tel Aviv, July 13.—United States swimmers won four gold medals on the first day of the tenth Maccabiah, the Jewish Olympics.

Some 2,500 athletes from 34 countries will be contesting 23 sports during the eight days of the Maccabiah Games.

On the opening day of an 18-nation football tournament, England beat Italy 10-1 and the defending champions, Israel, were held to a 2-2 draw by Venezuela.

In cricket, England beat Israel by 38 runs in a 50-over match to avenge a defeat by the hosts at the 1973 Games.

At the Tel Aviv University swimming pool, the 14-year-old Mexican champion, Hugo Winkler, presented an all-American sweep of gold medals by winning the 100 metres free-style from the Montreal bronze medal winner, Wendy Wimberly. She broke the Mexican Games records with a time of one minute 01.15 seconds.

In the men's events, Mark Heintz of the United States, San Diego, California, won the 100 metres backstroke in one minute 06.62 seconds and the United States won the 4x100 metres relay.

The six American women tennis competitors won their opening matches, and showed that they will offer a strong threat to top seeds Hana Kloss, of Czechoslovakia, and Barbara Schett, of West Germany. The six United States winners were Robin Tenner, Stacy Margolin, Jodi Applebaum, Dana Gilbert, Dora Rubin and Linda Siegelman.

Title bout put off

Madrid, July 14.—Disagreement over financial terms for televising the European heavyweight boxing championship contest here between Lucien Rodriguez, of France, and Alfredo Evangelista, of Spain, has caused its postponement from tomorrow to possibly September. —Reuter.

The Balkan power game over the Sahara

The decision of the Organization of African Unity to hold a special summit meeting at Lusaka in October on the Western Sahara is a diplomatic defeat for Morocco and Mauritania. An advance on a similar resolution at last year's summit meeting, in which a size and a place were agreed, more than cancelled Morocco's "victory" in having the representatives of the Saharans, the Polisario, excluded from this month's summit at Libreville.

Though the Saharans' struggle for independence in north-west Africa could at any moment erupt into a wholesale conflagration, for the time being, at least as far as Morocco is concerned, it has developed into a sort of diplomatic chess game. In this, the Polisario are in the lead, the supporters of the Polisario, excluding the Polisario, excluded from this month's summit at Libreville.

In terms of this sort of struggle, he was a notable victory last month when, for the first time, he put his basically autocratic rule to the ballot box and carried out his own election.

At the annual meeting, Bradford and Salford, who had been excluded from the table, the result last season, were not re-elected. West Hartlepool, Manchester, Hull and East Riding, Hull and Morley are the new clubs for next season.

No mixed-race rugby at club level

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Foreign Report

Washington.—We are surrounded by computers but most of us understand very little about them. Computers are no longer merely business machines, but pieces of equipment that are increasingly being used in all manner of commerce from kitchen to schoolroom to hospital to airport. The extent to which the computer has come to play a key role in our everyday lives is not widely appreciated and among laymen there is something frightening about the idea of machines of such complexity and versatility.

Some American social scientists are already talking about the dawning of a second industrial revolution where the machine now replaces human brain labour in much the same way as it replaced manual labour in the first industrial revolution. Computers appear all the more frightening when scientists talk about the development of machines that are as intelligent as human beings.

A great deal of research is currently being done to produce just such machinery, and Dr John McCarthy, the Director of Stanford University's Artificial Intelligence Laboratory in California, believes that present computers are capable of human level intelligence.

Dr McCarthy is swift to point out, however, that so far nobody has been able to write the programmes that are needed to produce highly intelligent machines. He noted recently that computers can be programmed to play chess better than 99 per cent of the population, but the computer has no general intelligence whatsoever. In fact, he asserted that "the machines are dumber than almost the dullest human being."

More, it looks like being years before the scientists find means of making intelligent machines. "If people ask me how far away is artificial human level intelligence," said Dr McCarthy, "I say we need 1.7 Einsteins and five Faradays and 0.3 of a Manhattan project and it would be best to have the Einstein before the Manhattan project."

The computer is so far away from being an intelligent machine that the only frightening thing about it is the general ignorance about the way it works, the way it can be used to best advantage and the future practical developments that can be made in computer technology. This ignorance, according to many computer scientists, is a barrier to greater use today of the computer.

A typical example is in the field of education. Engineers and teachers have worked for years on the development of teaching computers. Some of the most advanced work has been done under the direction of Dr Donald Bizer at the University of Illinois. Computer technology and programmes have been developed here that could be used in all kinds of educational establishments and which would certainly raise educational standards.

Their main concern, however, is that computers are only being used by a small number of institutions reflects the widespread fears of ignorant teachers and administrators of education. Some teachers are scared that they will be replaced by the computer and there are also deep fears that the computer will serve to stultify the imagination of students and turn our children into walking robots.

The experts at the University of Illinois stress that the computer must be seen as a valuable teaching tool and not as a substitute for the teacher. They argue convincingly that the computer can help the teacher to explain complex concepts, that it can also help the student to solve problems and learn facts and theories. Surveys of students who have used this computer system show that the machinery is considered valuable and teachers using the computer claim that the machinery



King Hassan : attempting to improve his image and diplomatic position.

King Hassan followed more recently by Libya, is the only state to have translated this sort of relationship into modern political and economic terms. Instead of keeping the desert as a barrier, Algeria has crossed it by setting itself up as the political model for left-wing regimes and by what left-wing Moroccans have described as a "soft" of Japanese economic imperialism.

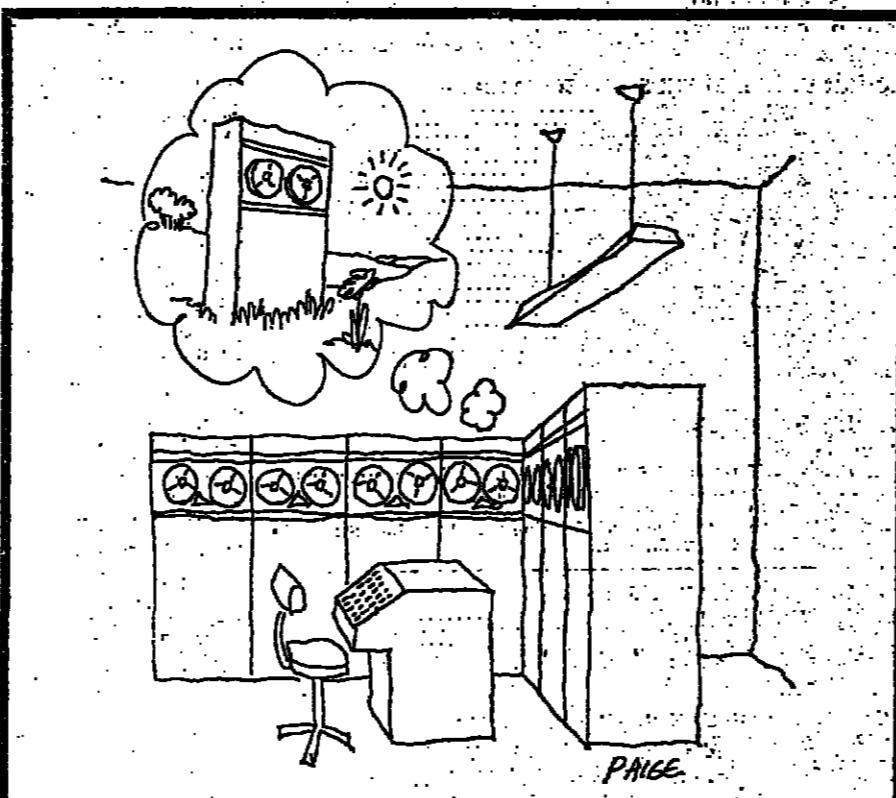
A right-wing authoritarian monarch, King Hassan, has shown himself more democratic than the left-wing socialist, Algeria. Though still heavily dependent on foreign aid and arms, he is getting rid of the American air bases on Moroccan soil, so that there will be less excuse for calling him a lackey of imperialism. But more importantly, and most unusually for a right-wing Arab state, he is turning his attention to Africa south of the Sahara.

There is a sense in which the northern boundary of Africa is not the Mediterranean but the Sahara. For centuries the desert and its nomads have been treated rather as "clients" or buffer zones between the "civilized" Arabs and the "barbarian" blacks. That is the basis of the legally tenuous but real historic links which form the basis of Morocco's

success. All this may seem much like Balkan dynasties in the early days of the century. But no longer is what is happening the norm of Africa and in southern Africa it could affect all our lives. Militarily, the Saharan conflict is in a position of stalemate. Diplomatically, up to now, those Arab countries who felt strongly about it have supported Morocco, while the African ones who felt strongly about it have supported Algeria. And the Polisario, King Hassan is now making a determined effort to break that diplomatic stalemate. Along with that, his successful gamble at the polls, is going to make it much easier for the Western powers to put their mouths where their money already is.

John Gretton

An apple for the teaching computer



is considered valuable and teachers using the computer claim that the machinery has definitely helped to raise academic achievement.

The computer can free the educator from much of the routine work he presently has to do and so enable him to spend more time in answering questions from students and in discussing philosophical and general problems with his classes. The computer, as demonstrations at the University of Illinois show, can not merely be of immense value in the teaching of the pure sciences, but it can also play a useful role in teaching such associated subjects as foreign languages and even music.

Dr Bizer's so-called "Plate" computer teaching system is now in its eighteenth year of development and Dr Bizer noted that one of the first things that was realized when this research project was started was that to be of value the computer had to be able to do much more than just carry out set instructions. The machine had to be able to communicate with the student and the range of communication methods had to be as wide as possible if the computer was to stimulate the imagination of the student in the most positive and constructive manner.

The computer is rapidly becoming a valuable tool of civil servants and it is likely to become much more widely used before long. Computer information banks and systems are now being developed that enable public administrators to make much more efficient use in policy planning of the masses of raw economic, technological, environmental and social data that is constantly being collected.

The use of the computer is rapidly becoming so pervasive that it is bringing greater changes in our living styles than most of us realize. It is also, of course, bringing with it new practical and philosophical problems. However, the computer is something that everyone should learn more about and which undoubtedly will be increasingly used in more technological applications as the general level of public ignorance about computers is reduced and as people come to realize that there is no reason to be frightened by what is merely a lump of metal and silicon.

Frank Vogl

ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning use prefix 0 only outside London Metropolitan Area.

OPERA & BALLET

THEATRES

COLOGNE, 01-556 3342. *Death and the Maiden*. Tues., Thurs., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m. Tonight 8.30 p.m. *La Bohème*. Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m. *Die Fledermaus*. Sun. 7.30 p.m.

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE, T. 9pm. "Balanchine's *Includes The Four Temperaments*, *Concerto*, *Shout*, *Intermission*, *Music Box*, *Divertimento*, *Allegro Brillant*." Only telephone.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA, 01-585 1222. *Die Walküre*. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m. *Die Zauberflöte*. Thurs., Sun. 7.30 p.m. *Die Fledermaus*. Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m.

NATIONAL THEATRE, 01-585 1222. *Volpone* by Ben Jonson. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m. *Volpone*. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m. *Volpone*. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m.

GLYNDALE FESTIVAL, 01-585 1222. *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m. *Die Schneekönigin*. Thurs., Sun. 7.30 p.m.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, 01-585 1222. *Die Walküre*. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m. *Die Zauberflöte*. Thurs., Sun. 7.30 p.m. *Die Fledermaus*. Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m.

ROUND HOUSE, 01-585 1222. *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m. *Die Walküre*. Thurs., Sun. 7.30 p.m.

THE ROYAL BALLET, 01-585 1222. *Romeo and Juliet*. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m. *Swan Lake*. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m.

MAYFAIR, 01-585 1222. *Swan Lake*. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m.

DUSA, FISH, STAS & VI, 01-585 1222. *Die Walküre*. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m.

NATIONAL THEATRE, 01-585 1222. *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m. *Die Walküre*. Thurs., Sun. 7.30 p.m.

THEATRE, 01-585 1222. *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m. *Die Walküre*. Thurs., Sun. 7.30 p.m.

CHARTERHOUSE SCHOOL, Chapel, Godalming. Wed., Sat. 7.30 p.m.

EARLY MUSIC, 01-585 1222. *London Voices*. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK, 01-585 1222. *Henry V*. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, 01-585 1222. *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m.

CONCERTS, 01-585 1222. *Mezzo-Soprano*. Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., Sun. 7.30 p.m.

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EARLY MUSIC, 01-585 1222. <

THE ARTS

Salute to 'Salo': Pasolini's modern setting of Sade

Salo

Compton Cinema Club
The Best Way to Walk
Screen on the Green
Sinbad and the Eye of
the Tiger (u)

Empire Leic Sq

This has been a week of real, in legal quarters, for setting the standards of morality for the last quarter of the century; so one is perhaps a little less startled to find Pasolini's scathing, monumental testament *Salo*, or the *120 Days of Sodom* bizarrely turning up in the strange ghetto of the Compton Cinema Club. It was shown to the press, at least, in an integral uncut version.

The film is distributed by United Artists. The British Board of Film Censors played Pontius Pilate in the case, declaring the film a work of art which they could not cut without altering the author's intention, but which they declined to award a certificate in its uncut form. After the BBC had checked their hands if it, the GLC refused their certificate.

Pasolini gives it Damocles form. In the "Anti-fascist" Sade's four masters—the Duke, the Bishop, the President and the Chief Magistrate, all evidently fascist functionaries—organize a round-up of the victims or collaborators for their ghastly experiment: eight women, eight men, four young soldiers and four story-tellers.

In *Salo* these women, intended to inflame the company's passion with recitals of lubidous tales, were dreadful old hags. In Pasolini's version they have become elegant bourgeois ladies of a certain age and exquisite manners, one of whom provides a melodious piano accompaniment to the work of art.

Pasolini himself, it seems, was appalled by his creation, finished only a matter of days before he was murdered. "The result is what I had intended and made. But now there is something I see in it for the first time. I feel uneasiness and fear."

Salo is quite different from any of Pasolini's preceding work. The improvisational looseness of the story cycles (*Decameron*, *Canterbury Tales*, *Thousand and One Nights*) is here replaced by a very disciplined, precisely scripted formal construction.

There is a profound difference of mood. The story cycles celebrated liberation and sexual innocence. *Salo* aims to draw the spectator into the inferno of despair which seemingly overtook Pasolini in his last days, and which led him to

write a remarkable series of articles on the growth of social violence, attributed to the consumer society and the disorientation of the urban proletariat. "Young people today," he wrote around the time he began the film, "are ugly or despairing, wicked or submissive."

In *Salo*'s 120 Days of Sodom he found a metaphor for his feelings about our times, allowing for one central change of emphasis: "My insistence in replacing Sade's 'God' with the power concept is based on the realization that today one needs to fight the power exercised over man's body as much as in his time one needed to oppose the power exercised over his beliefs."

The setting for this modern version of *Salo* is the puppet fascist republic which was Mussolini's final strong-hold in the last days of the war. The fascist era and its monstrous inhumanity provided a real-life possibility for the absolute power over human beings of Sade's fantasies. For Pasolini it becomes a metaphor for power in general and the "natural capacity of power to turn human bodies into objects".

The film is an Inferno, and Pasolini gives it Damocles form. In the "Anti-fascist" Sade's four masters—the Duke, the Bishop, the President and the Chief Magistrate, all evidently fascist functionaries—organize a round-up of the victims or collaborators for their

ghastly experiment: eight women, eight men, four young soldiers and four story-tellers.

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Writing about the film on its first screening, in Paris, three weeks after Pasolini's death I quoted (and I quote again, without apology) Moravia's memorial tribute to Pasolini's achievement in giving a poetic definition to the "as yet nebulous and unformed aspects of the violence of the masses which he had discerned as one discerns a silhouette in the night". He likened Pasolini's quest to discover the form of violence to Rimbaud's desire to see the dawn. "When Rimbaud saw the dawn, he

awoke, Pasolini did not perceive violence until the end. And when he perceived it was too late. All became obscurity, without the possibility of

reproducing a powerful, intensely cathartic shock. The sexuality, the scatology, the horror are in no single respect titillating, in the manner of pornography, but deliberately painful. Pasolini steadfastly refused to offer his audience what he regarded as the "luxurious pleasure" of being

scandalized. It is in the nature of things that first works are inclined to be autobiographical, and more often than not concerned with exorcising the ghosts of the adolescent purgatory. In this, Claude Miller's *La Meilleure Facon de Marcher* is no exception. It is exceptional as a first film, however, for its authority and assurance.

After 12 years as assistant to directors as different as Marcel Carné, Jacques Demy, Jean-Luc Godard and François Truffaut (on seven films) Miller's professional proficiency is perhaps not surprising. He works with a simplicity and directness which come from confidence that through his image, his text (he is a "script" director, not inclined to improvisation) and his actors he can say precisely what he means to say.

More remarkable is the ability to sustain counter-tensions. A film that is about emotional pain and frustration is at the same time charming and funny in its incidental action. He uses (largely for reasons of economy) a documentary setting and a persuasively naturalistic manner alongside schematic and melodramatic devices.

The opening shot of the film, before the credit titles, is an example. Two little boys from the summer camp where the action takes place, are playing outside, so absorbed that they are oblivious of the rain. The place and atmosphere are effectively established, but at the same time the boys' play—attempting headstands, one succeeds while the other repeatedly falls flat on his back—provides a metaphor and a motif for the central relationship of the film.

Marc and Philippe are late adolescents, working as monitors, but the camp's farewell party Philippe takes the offensive, challenging Marc at his own game, publicly humiliating him with coarse homosexual advances.

There is a curious, rather awkward epilogue in which the three meet again, years after-

wards, with all the old passion spent. Marc is now a rather dusky estate agent, trying to sell a flat to a self-confident Philippe, still accompanied by Chantal.

The camp provides a comic background to the drama of Philippe and Marc, but at the same time affords clues and commentaries. The poor little whimpering brat whose friend won't speak to him (played by Miller's own child) looks like Philippe's flashback childhood.

The wretched monitor who is publicly disgraced when he turns out to have a store of dirty photos, personifies, equally, Philippe's fear of exposure.

The boys are played by Patrick Dewaele (Marc) a favourite of the current realist school of French film-makers, and Patrick Bouchitey, a new and very taking talent. Claude Pieplu adds another figure to his splendid gallery of pompous officialdom as the camp head who proudly introduces ideas box only produces some unconvincing rude suggestions from the infants in his care.

Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger is a very enjoyable piece of nostalgia, and Arabian Nights fantasy, scripted by Beverly Cross, directed with gusto by Sam Wanamaker, and with very jolly magic conjured up by the special effects king, Ray Harryhausen. Harryhausen's mythological beasts, including a kindly bronze minotaur, rather overshadowed the humans, except for Margaret Whiting as a colourful wicked witch.

This week the National Film

Theatre began a complete retrospective of the films of Francesco Rosi, a director who has

shown that deep political commitment is in no way inconsistent with the tensions and excitement of drama. Under the influence of his early master Visconti, his first films like *La Sfida*, *I Maghi* and *Il Momeno di della Verità* dealt with the corrupting effect of social and economic aspiration.

With *Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger* (1961), the first of his "reconstructed" documentaries, Rosi began the series of studies of political corruption, Italian and international, which continued in *The Mattei Affair*, *Lucky Luciano* (which the NFT will show for the first time in the country in an uncut version on July 27) and *Illustrous Corpse*.

Mike Leigh: anything but anarchy

Abigail's Party (which reopens at the Hampstead Theatre on Monday as an initial and critically-acclaimed run there earlier in the year) is by general reckoning the nearest the English theatre has lately come to the intense host-versus-guests despair of Albee's *Virginia Woolf*. It has also been the most remarkable recent success of a theatre currently enjoying a winning streak. But what separates *Abigail's Party* from the general round is that it appears not to have been written at all: instead, it has been "devised" by the 34-year-old stage and film director Mike Leigh.

Apart from his film and television work, Leigh has been responsible for more than thirty plays in the last 10 years, many devised and put together in circumstances resembling those at Hampstead. I believe in improvisation: this is not some kind of all-in anarchic democracy. At Hampstead I had the promise of a specified number of actors and nine rehearsals weeks: I also knew roughly the dimensions of the Hampstead stage and the likely sort of audience you had there, but that, up to the first day of rehearsal, was all I had to work with."

On the first day of rehearsal, it is Leigh's custom to approach each actor (many of whom he will have worked with before) and ask them to find a character.

"Generally they come up with a list of five or six friends, people they would like to be, and during the first week or two of rehearsal I then work independently with each of the actors until he or she has selected one: these are not acting exercises in which people are supposed to be funny or inventive or amusing—they're a genuine search for characters who are then researched and built into a final script. Characters develop, then relationships, and these I monitor and follow and push towards a dramatic conflict of some kind, so that you get a microcosm of society through improvisation. At one point in the *Abigail's Party* rehearsals we had three quite separate themes going, and the occasion of the play was the interrelation of those themes.

On paper the quality of the piece isn't great: what makes it work is I think the unstated tensions and implications

which have grown up during a long rehearsal period. The final draft of the play wasn't until the first night, though now the alterations from night to night are very few.

"But as soon as you start talking about improvisation people expect anarchy: in fact our objectives in *Abigail's Party*, the things we wanted to say about these people and their social habits and surroundings remained rock solid

which went into films, in the days when there were still such things as B pictures:

"Everyone wore 10 feet of make-up and they used in constructing entire transport cafés on the set because nobody had apparently yet thought of filming in a real one: I got a few bit parts and a good job as a deaf mute in a *Magistrate* episode but then I jacked it in and went in the Camberwell school of art because I was interested in design. There, in a life drawing class, I suddenly realized what it was: I'd always hated about RADA: we never made an organic or truthful statement about what we were experiencing—everything was secondhand or borrowed or learnt. Nobody ever confronted themselves with in-the-screen experience, or tried to distil or express it. Now you will find the importance of all that in Stanislavsky, but to me it was a revelation: suddenly you are into an area of creative investigation instead of mere reproduction".

Then in 1967 Mike Leigh got a job as an assistant director in Peter Hall's last Stratford season:

"I did some improvisations with the cast of *Coriolanus* and *The Taming of the Shrew* and got treated with a kind of healthy cynicism which was very good for me: I spent the season alternately stroppy and very excited—I seemed to be the only non-Cambridge director around, and I carried my lack of 'A level' English like a great inferiority complex.

"Still, I did some demonstrations called *The Actor at Work* and then Terry Hands was called away and I sort of inherited *Theatregrounds* for a while: but it soon became pretty obvious that the long rehearsal periods I need and that I'm unable to offer management any sort of script before the first night ruled me out of most company's schedules.

"So I went off into the wilderness for a while, taught in the E15 acting school, then spent a year at teacher training college in Manchester because I thought maybe I was going to be a playwright after all, in which case teaching would have paid the rent."

"But there I began to do some improvisations with the Youth Theatre and that sort of led me back to stage work."

Sheridan Morley

Photograph by John Haynes

from the very first: only the surface text is flexible.

"A great many actors find it impossible to work like this: the ability to improvise intelligently is not the same as the old Rep actors' ability to ad lib in a crisis. The actor here has to think only of his own character: once he starts worrying about the overall framework of the play or if it'll work, then he's lost: it's only really good for actors who want to play real people instead of stage characters.

"Improvising has nothing to do with writhing and twitching or exploring an arty process for its own sake: what we're trying here is a form of social documentation."

After RADA (where he was in the generation of David Hall, Ian McEwan, David Warner and Sarah Miles) Leigh went to be an assistant stage manager in Rep at Lenthend until he got a plug-thrust in his eye and was taken to hospital. From there

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Portrait bust sold for £40,000 anonymously

By Geraldine Norman
Eighteenth-century wigs, a riot of curly hair, were a real challenge to the ivory sculptor; the challenge had been met with marvellous finesse by the ivory portrait bust seven inches high, of Francis Sambrook by David Ian Marchand, which was sold at Sotheby's yesterday for £40,000. The purchaser was said to be a connoisseur collector but that was as far as his complete anonymity by Sotheby's sale clerks. The auctioneers had been estimating about £20,000 to £25,000.

The sitter, born in 1662, became a lawyer, being admitted to the Middle Temple in 1682; he came of a family of City merchants and Turkey traders. Le Marchand, on the other hand, was a Huguenot refugee from the religious persecutions of Louis XIV so his art was presumably well regarded.

The other big price in the sale was £30,000 (estimate £7,000 to £10,000), paid also by the sale clerk on behalf of an anonymous client, for a 34 inch chunky and dim-looking angel cast in bronze in the eighteenth century. The piece had probably been the treasured possession of having belonged to Horace Walpole; he is shown standing in a Gothic niche in a drawing of the gallery at Strawberry Hill. The hole in his back indicated that it was a copy of a medieval Renaissance and baroque works of art made £27,193, with 11 per cent unsold. Among the other principal items was a large (20 inches) Italian cast-bronze mirror made for the most commanding kitchen of the third quarter of the nineteenth century made £2,150 (estimate £700 to £1,200).

Sotheby's sale of Japanese prints and oriental drawings made £35,236, with 11 per cent unsold. A book sale at Hodson's rooms made £19,103, with 16 per cent unsold. F. R. Marston's *History of Oriental Carpets Before 1800*, in three volumes, of which 200 copies were published in Vienna in 1806, made £1,000 (estimate £1,000 to £1,200), a reflection of the present interest in carpets.

At Christie's, fine continental furniture and works of art made £17,250, with 10 per cent unsold. A group of carpets and rugs brought £25,500, with 30 per cent unsold. As usual in this type of sale, dealers from each continental country were busy buying back furniture that had reached Britain from their own countries.

At Sotheby's Belgravia a sale of oriental ceramics, furniture and works of art made £62,622, with 3 per cent unsold. A pair of black lacquer bowls, probably Safavid, of the third quarter of the nine-

teenth century made £2,150 (estimate £700 to £1,200).

Walsh and Another v Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers

Before Mr Justice Brightwell

Mr Justice Brightwell granted two members of the headquarters of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers in South London a declaration that their purported expulsion from the union in January 1976, was in particular directed against "poaching" of union members. Agreement was reached in December 1975 between Apex and the AUEW on a compromise basis to the effect that the AUEW would end membership of five of the six unions represented on Apex, and that the AUEW would be permitted to keep five or a few more than five.

On December 23 Mr Walsh and Mr Johnson were called to Mr Boyd's office and told that they would be removed from membership of the AUEW.

HIS LORDSHIP said that Mr Walsh and Mr Johnson had been engaged as clerks at the union's head office in 1960 and 1957 respectively. Upon entering they joined the Association of Professional Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex). In November 1975 Apex and the AUEW regarding the London weighting allowance and there was an unofficial strike, which became official. During the dispute Mr Hugh Scanlon, the AUEW president, issued a memorandum over his own signature for members of another union was disqualified from membership and the clause provided for expulsion of a member admitted in such circumstances. By a proviso to clause 8 dealing with disqualification of members of another union was the union appropriate for headquarters staff.

Both men applied to join Mr Scanlon's evidence said that he had written a personal letter to Mr Scanlon asking if he could be reinstated. He was told he could. He filled in an application form stating he had resigned from Apex and was

admitted five days later. His predecessor was Mr John Boyd, the present general secretary.

On December 20 Apex wrote to

the AUEW, however, the letter

stated that the members of the two unions were separated under clause 8, they could not be compelled because six weeks notice had not been given and there was no decision of the Disputed Committee.

Instead, the AUEW had chosen

to rely on Rule 15, clause 14,

which gave the executive council power "where the rules do not provide for the contrary" to do such things as are in their opinion necessary for the welfare or good government of the union.

"They submitted that it was in the union's interest to reach a compromise with Apex and that the executive council had power to effect temporary renunciation of membership.

Mr Johnson had given evidence

that he had been given a power

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 15 1977

JOHN PLAYER GRAND PRIX

Motor Motor



Championship rivals meet to do battle

John Blaasdaa

rent championship leader, signs of that potential being Niki Lauda, from his two reached, when Hunt qualified closest rivals, Mario Andretti for the front row, led the race for a few laps, and Lauda's Ferrari team colleague Carlos Reutemann also took third place, well ahead of the rest of the field, despite feeling far from well.

This year, though, two drivers stand out among all others as the men to beat, each of whom is driving for a team which has passed through a lean patch and emerged to show a hitherto unattained and most impressive level of competitiveness. Mario Andretti, who worked so hard for John Player Team Lotus last year was finally rewarded by a victory in Japan, has been quick to demonstrate this season that the latest product of the fertile brain of the technically talented Colin Chapman is a real winner.

Now, it seems, this dubious honour has passed to John Watson, a driver of great natural talent and mechanical sympathy who time and again has emerged as consistently the fastest of the Ford-powered cars.

Whereas last year the

In deference to its heavy margin of advantage to over sponsorship (and rightly half a second). If there are any keys to the car's success they have to be its excellent balance and the facility with which it responds to the chassis-setting compromises

which are a permanent pre-

repared to speak quite frankly the point in the perfect safe, that is quite sizeable and both would hold his speed if they would see that he is consistent and right if he wanted to speak out. It was very proud of it played in ending up that he worried to me, and that he could, and that he could do it. "The pound in your pocket will be well spent by his and my judgment."

And so Mr Solomon is

the point in the perfect

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cockpit of Lauda, this year again this season has been in a position to win a grand so because the team's main opposition is in the shape of John Watson, Brabham and Alfa Romeo. Until he retired from this branch of the sport, Chris Amon was the undisputed claimant to the title of unluckiest grand prix winner. He failed to win his first race for the Martini Brabham team for the want of one more litre of petrol—sufficient to see him through the last three corners of the last lap of the Dijon-Prenois circuit.

Apart from Watson's per-

sonal qualities, the ability of potential to make more

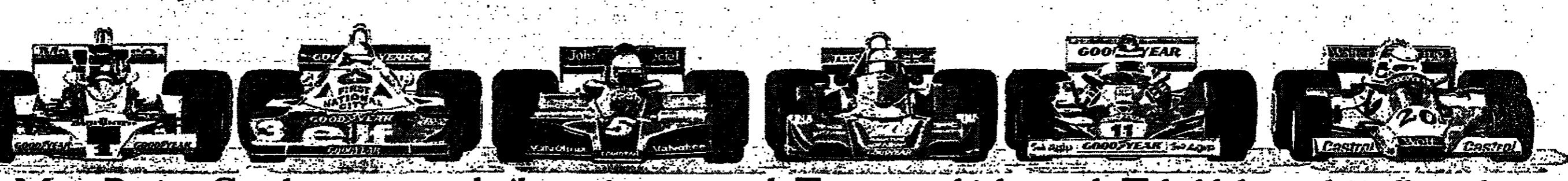
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MOTOR RACING

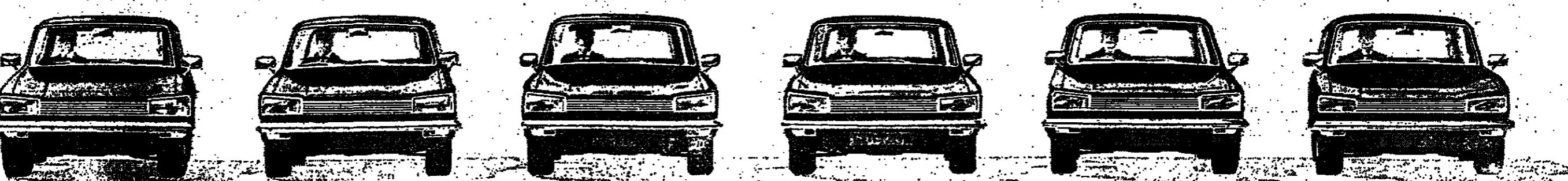
a Special Report to
mark tomorrow's
British Grand Prix
at Silverstone

Silverstone headlines (the last time was in 1973, as the instigator of the multi-car pile-up) is Jody Scheckter, who today is a much more mature driver, perhaps second to none in single-minded determination. He and the new-look Walter Wolf racing team have proved the revelation of 1977; they surprised the grand-prix world by winning their first grand prix, in Argentina, but they surprised it even more subsequently when, by a series of fast and consistent performances, they demonstrated that the Argentinian result was no fluke, but an accurate indication of their potential.

Recently, the team has been plagued by a mysterious fuel-feed problem, and Scheckter has not added any championship points since his victory at Monaco, although he retained the lead in the championship table for two more races. If his car returns to its former level of reliability this week, Scheckter will prove a tough driver to beat at Silverstone.



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Championship rivals meet to do battle

Continued from previous page

From being the habitual pacemakers, Ferrari have slipped somewhat during the past year, and although at first Niki Lauda's bad accident was widely suggested as the major cause, it is now clear that the Italian team are having considerable difficulty in making their cars handle as well as in the past.

The victory by Jacques Laffite in Sweden was a considerable tonic for the French Ligier-Matra team, who produce perhaps the purest high-pitch noise in a grand prix. They frequently seem to be on the brink of success, but have so often run into unforeseen problems. This is another car which should show up well on a fast circuit.

No team stays at the top indefinitely; they all have to enter the troughs, and this year, it seems, it is the turn of the Eif Tyrrell team. Their six-wheel project has been an audacious contest, which defied the critics who

labelled it a publicity gimme, first to exploit the rule for their second car. The which allows cars with 1.1-litre turbocharged engines to run alongside those with normally aspirated 3-litre power units, and which goes well during the qualification trials this week the car will make its public debut in Jabolou's hands at Silverstone.

That it is potentially very fast has already been proved in private tests in France; it may be some little time, however, before the inevitable teething troubles are resolved.

The tragic death of Tom Pryce in South Africa has been another severe blow to the Shadow team, but the restructured team, which once again has the benefit of substantial sponsorship, is now open for two leagues of Formula One racing, a first division based on the World Championship, and a second division for the young hopefuls and those more experienced drivers who do not aspire to international stardom.

March Engineering, meanwhile, are having such a busy time trying to sort out their latest creation that they have had little opportunity to pursue their version of the six-wheeled concept (four wheels at the rear) very far,

while another team which is finding world championship points off too elusive is Maurice Philippe, former co-designer of the Lotus 72, who is tempted to prophesy that the next all-new car to carry the Tyrrell name will have one pair of wheels less than the current one.

Whereas 1976 will be remembered as the year of the six-wheeler, 1977 will go into the record book as the year of the turbocharged Formula One car. Renault are the

seeds on a pernicious driver

on a fast circuit.

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Around the world with the high-speed circus

by Peter Waymark

The quest for the 1977 World Championship began in the burning heat of Buenos Aires in January when the South African Jody Scheckter won the Argentine Grand Prix in his new Wolf-Ford. It was a triumph of endurance rather than speed for Scheckter had led the race for only the last six of its 53 laps.

The early running was

set by John Watson, the

briskness in his Brabham Alfa, until he was pushed

back by tyre trouble. James Hunt, the 1976 World Champion, took over the lead in his McLaren and established the day's fastest lap

but was put out of the race

by a crash on the thirty-second lap. His German team-mate, Jochen Mass, had retired three laps earlier with an overheating

Watson and the other British driver, Carlos Pace of Brazil, then led alternately, but Watson dropped out with a broken

steering and Pace, exhausted by the heat, was finally ousted into second place by

Scheckter. The local man, Carlos Reutemann, pleased

a partisan crowd by finishing third in his Fiat Ferrari,

followed by the former champion from Brazil, Emerson Fittipaldi.

Among those unplaced was Niki Lauda of Austria (Ferrari) whose

duel with Hunt after a near-fatal accident was the highlight of the 1976 season.

A fortnight later battle was

resumed at São Paulo in Brazil. It was another race contested in extreme heat

and it brought Reutemann his first victory for Ferrari.

A freshly surfaced track produced an unusual number of

crashes, with four drivers involved in an incident on the twelfth lap after Jochen

Mass's McLaren had spun off a bend and dragged a

section of fence across the track.

This left Reutemann chasing Hunt, who led the race until forced into the pits for a tyre change. Tom Pryce, the Welsh driver in his Shadow, came up briefly from second place behind Reutemann, this time he led both Scheckter and Lauda catch him. Then Watson's

team-mate, Jochen Mass, had

retired with engine trouble

and Hunt, who had started slowly but

recovered, was soon

second in the race.

James Hunt's luck was out

again: forced into the pits

after a bend and dragged a

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Hunt, the



How come one of Britain's most successful rally cars didn't win a single rally last year?

If you got a secret twinge of pride last year when a car 'just like the one you drive' came first in a major rally, you do not drive a Triumph Dolomite.

Because although Dolomites consistently came first in their class they never came first overall.

But then, some of the cars that did come first bore about as much resemblance to ordinary production models as the QE2 bears to the Woolwich ferry.

They had been, to put it mildly, 'modified.'

We believe that any car that's as well engineered as the ordinary road-going Sprint should be able to cope with rally conditions without being modified out of all recognition.

True, we did fit a roll-cage and a fire extinguisher, but we had to do that because the safety regulations required it. We tuned and balanced the engine to get the maximum power out of it, we tightened up the suspension

1976 Dolomite Sprint results

Group One	OUTRIGHT CLASS WINNER	Mintex International Rally
Group One	OUTRIGHT CLASS WINNER	Granite City Rally
Group One	OUTRIGHT CLASS WINNER	Burmah Rally
Group One	OUTRIGHT CLASS WINNER	Manx International Rally
Group One	OUTRIGHT CLASS WINNER	Lindisfarne Rally

to cope with the rougher rally conditions, we put spotlights on the front to shed a little extra light on the gloomy forest roads, and we stuck on a racing exhaust. That's the kind of thing we were allowed to do.

But in the end, the car was much closer to a standard road version than highly modified outright winners.

And as you can see from the results table, it came first in its category in no less than five major rallies last year.

Which gives us a great deal of private satisfaction.

After all, if we wanted to come first, we could probably lay our hands on a pair of V12 Jaguar engines to put under the bonnet.

It wouldn't prove much, but it would scare the hell out of the opposition.



Dolomite. A triumph of British engineering.  Triumph

From Leyland Cars. With Supercovers.

Star image hides toughness

by Robert Parker

If one did not know the character of James Hunt from his apprenticeship, and from the way he won last year's championship against all expectation, then one would hardly consider him a prospect for winning again this year. At the moment, with nine of the 17 grands prix completed, Hunt is lying only in seventh position with 13 points. Four of the drivers ahead of him have from 28 to 33.

But he was hardly doing any better this time last year, and indeed most commentators had written off his chances of winning. He did, however, win the French Grand Prix last year. Two weeks ago he came third well, but was lying sixth when Hunt really must win this weekend's grand prix at Silverstone if he is to keep his hopes alive. Last year in the British Grand Prix at Brands Hatch he was first past the finishing line but was later disqualified.

Whatever the outcome of the championship, few would argue that James Hunt has done as much, if not more, for British motor racing than almost any other driver. He is a tremendous crowd puller and attracts continuous publicity.

There is doubtless some muttering in the clubs about the publicity that Hunt's adventures off the track also attract, and the kind of jet-setting superstar treatment he receives.

Hunt actually takes his responsibilities off the track almost as seriously as his racing on the track. On public occasions he frequently pays tribute to the importance of the McLaren team and acknowledges the duty he has to his sponsors.

Since 1974, Hunt has been living in tax exile in southern Spain, where he and his Porsche car have quite a reputation. He is said to be able to make about £1m this year as a result of his championship to add to the already considerable amounts he has made in recent years.

But it has not been easy for Hunt to reach the success which obviously owes much to his own determination and skill. But that in itself is not enough. He also needed luck, maybe luck that he created.

There was the spectacular accident at Oulton Park in 1968 when Hunt and car

were both killed.

The second big piece of story came in the autumn of 1975, as the season finished.

Hesketh Racing was folded,

and the future looked bleak. But at that moment Hunt was signed by McLaren. It took Mr Teddy Mayer, McLaren's boss, just a minute to decide.

Hunt had the determination to win. "The best decisions are always the quick ones," he said.

Hunt was particularly lucky because when he was signed most of the teams had been arranged for the next season. McLaren's was no exception but then Fittipaldi pulled out, and there waiting for Hunt was a place in a fully sponsored and first-class outfit.

Last year in his first season with McLaren, Hunt won the championship after a tremendous battle with Ferrari and Niki Lauda.

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COURT CIRCULAR

HM YACHT BRITANNIA

July 14: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attended by the Duchess of Grafton, Sir Philip Morris, Mr. Robert Fellowes, Mr. Ronald Allison and Major Robin Innes, embarked from HMS Royal Yacht Britannia at Tees Dock, Middlesbrough, this morning for the Silver Jubilee Visit to Cleveland and Durham.

Having been received by Her Majesty's Lieutenant Governor for Cleveland (Major Cecil Crossman) and the Chairman of Cleveland County Council (Councillor A. Scott Cunningham), Her Majesty opened No 2 Quay, Tees Dock, and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

At Saltwick School Complex, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburg were received by the Mayor of Middlesbrough Borough (Councillor R. Stilth) and, after viewing schoolchildren's activities on the playing fields, carried in a procession to the Civic Hall.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburg then drove to Durham and were received by the Mayor of Durham (Sir Leslie's Lord Lieutenant for Durham (the Lord Barnard) and the Mayor of Durham (Councillor A. Thompson).

After a visit to the Town Hall, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, who received at Uttoxeter by the Vice-Chancellor of Durham (Sir Dernam Christoperson).

Upon arrival at the Cathedral (Dean of Durham, the Very Reverend Eric Heale), The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were received by the Bishop of Durham (the Right Reverend John Haggard).

Her Majesty, with His Royal Highness, later honoured the Chairman of Durham County Council (Councillor R. C. Robinson) at a luncheon at the Civic Centre at luncheon in County Hall.

This afternoon, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburg drove to

Lunches

Mr. Ewan Luard, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon held at Admiralty House yesterday in honour of the Nepalese Ambassador and Madame Raad. The others were:

The Ambassador of Pakistan and Honourable Aslam, the High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr. Aslam and Mrs. Aslam, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Aslam, Mr. A. K. Kelus, Mr. R. O'Neill and Mr. J. Dugdale.

Council of Christians and Jews The Chief Rabbi, joint president of the Council of Christians and Jews, and Miss Jakobovitch gave a lecture at their home in Hamilton Terrace yesterday to discuss the future of the council. The guests were:

Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westm.

Archbishop of York, Cardinal Gibbons, Air Chief Marshal Sir John

A. Cross, RA, presided.

Marriages

The Hon Philip Remnant and Miss C. E. C. Cavendish The marriage took place yesterday at St Margaret's, Westminster, between the Hon Philip John Remnant, eldest son of Lord and Lady Hatch, Reading, Berks., and Miss Caroline Elizabeth Clare Cavendish, younger daughter of the late Mr Godfrey H. R. Cavendish and of Mrs Godfrey Cavendish, of 9 Cheyne Court, London. The Rev J. W. Ratcliffe officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her uncle, Mr Gordon Cavendish, wore a gown of white silk with a train. Her silk-tulle veil was held in place by a diamond tiara and she carried a bouquet of white orchids, freesias, stephanotis and lilies-of-the-valley. James Knight, Barnaby Loehns, the Hon Melrose Remnant, sister of the bridegroom, Miss Diana Remnant, and Miss Helen Hutchinson attended her. The Hon Robert Remnant, brother of the bridegroom, was best man.

A reception was held at the Hyde Park Hotel. The honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr H. M. Teacher and Miss R. A. Page Wood The marriage took place quietly on July 14 between Mr. Hugh Teacher, younger son of the late Major General Hugh and of Mrs Teacher, and Miss Rosemary Page Wood, daughter of the late Sir David Page Wood, Bt, and of Lady Page Wood.

Mr. J. E. Cannell and Miss Y. Bouffier The marriage took place recently at St. Margaret's, Westminster, between Mr. John Ben Cannell and Miss Yvonne Bouffier, of Tottington.

Church of Scotland

The Rev. E. A. Saurer, East Kilbride, has been appointed to the Curatorium, Crichton and Ford, Presbytery of Lothian. The Rev. D. K. Arnett, Moderator of the Presbytery of Lothian, to Southwark, Presbytery of Glasgow. The Rev. H. Taylor, Curate, Treasurer of the Kirk of the Green, Chelmsford, Kirk on the Green, Chelmsford. The Rev. W. G. Beattie, Finsbury Park, to St. Paul's, Finsbury Park. The Rev. J. G. Oliver, formerly of Finsbury, Presbytery of Caxton, to Radcliffe, Presbytery of Sutherland.

Birthdays today

Mr Colin Anderson, 73; Mr Julian Arden, 44; Sir Douglas Ruskin, 71; Lord Edmund-Davies, 71; Air Marshal Sir Paterson Fraser, 70; Mr R. Hammond Jones, 64; Sir Percy Lister, 80; Miss Iris Murdoch, 53; Lord Shackleton, 66; Mr Ron Smith, 62.

Association of Women in Public Relations

Mr Roy Strong was host to the Association of Women in Public Relations at a private view of the 'Aberdeenshire' exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum last night. A sandman snowman gave a short talk.

Sandringham House is to be closed on Monday until August 8, inclusive, while Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother is in residence. The gardens will be closed from July 26 until August 2 incl. The gardens are to be closed from July 27 to November 2 incl.

The college is to be established in the buildings of the Radcliffe

Hartlepool Civic Centre and were received by the Mayor of Hartlepool (Councillor J. W. Mason). Her Majesty opened the Centre and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

Having been received at Old Coal Dock by the Chairman, Royal National Lifeboat Institution (Major-General R. H. Farrant), the Chairman of the Hartlepool Branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (Mr. James Atkinson) and later, the Captain (Sir William Glanville, Bt), The Queen, with the Duke of Edinburgh, named the lifeboat The Scout.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were subsequently received by the Mayor of Stockton (Sir Philip Morris), Mr. Ronald Allison and Major Robin Innes, who embarked from HMS Royal Yacht Britannia at Tees Dock, Middlesbrough, this morning for the Silver Jubilee Visit to Cleveland and Durham.

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KENSINGTON PALACE

July 14: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today visited Hartlepool and opened Castle

High Town Hall, Kent, and Chee Man, eldest daughter of the late Dr A. C. Jap, of Singapore.

Mr. C. R. H. Hardy and Miss C. M. Jap

The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Dr and Mrs K. W. Hardy, of Borden Hall, Kent, and Chee Man, eldest daughter of the late Dr A. C. Jap, of Singapore.

Mr. C. J. Kidder and Miss A. Cowper

The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Group Captain and Mrs J. E. Kidder, of Bournemouth, Dorset, and Anne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. F. Cowper, of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.

Mr. R. S. MacDougall and Miss H. I. M. van Tilborg

The engagement is announced between Raheen, eldest son of Group Captain and Mrs J. E. Kidder, of Bournemouth, Dorset, and Anne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. F. Cowper, of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.

Mr. A. Waters and Miss E. Newman

The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr and Mrs G. F. Waters, of Kensington, Kent, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. M. Newman, of Torquay, Devon.

Mr. T. B. Smit and Miss L. C. Pinson

The engagement is announced between Tim, son of Mr and Mrs T. B. Smit, of Ascot, and Candy, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs C. R. Pinson, of The Chestnuts, Castle Hill, Guildford.

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Professor Giuseppe Medici: a breathing space for Montedison.

Ex-Minister to head Montedison

From John Earle

Professor Giuseppe Medici, 70-year-old former Christian Democrat Minister, was today appointed chairman of Montedison, the ailing chemicals and fibres group, Italy's second largest private company. He succeeds Signor Eugenio Cefis, who moved there six years ago from heading ENI, the state hydrocarbons agency, with a mandate to restore Montedison to profitability. It was a task which, despite extensive reorganization, he failed to accomplish.

Group losses last year amounted to £172,000m lire (£515m) and further losses are reported to have accumulated this year. One of Signor Cefis's last efforts to retrieve the situation was to sell last month Montedison's Milan-based bank, Banco Lariano, to Istituto San Paolo di Turin.

Signor Cefis announced his intention to resign at the annual meeting in April. But delayed putting it into effect pending protracted discussions involving the major private shareholders and the government. The state has an important holding through ENI and IRV.

Professor Medici's appointment is looked upon in business circles as a stopgap arrangement. After a distinguished career in agricultural reform and reclamation, he served 12 times as a Minister in government between 1954 and 1972.

He lacks experience in managing a major industrial group, but his chairmanship should provide a breathing space in which discussions can continue between industrialists and the political parties on the company's structure.

The Communists and Socialists, whose support is vital for the survival of the Andreotti Government, want the public sector shareholdings to be put under a specially created public agency which would exercise a strong influence on company strategy.

This is opposed by most Christian Democrats.

Brussels optimistic about British economy but sounds pay warning

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, July 14

A growth rate of 3 per cent in gross domestic product between 1977 and 1978, a marked fall in the inflation rate over the same period, and a current account surplus of more than £1,000m next year are the main elements in a fairly rosy picture of the British economy painted by the European Commission.

These forecasts are contained in a document setting out recommended guidelines for EEC economic policy during the rest of this year and for the preparation of member states' budgets for 1978. The document will be discussed by finance ministers of the Nine next week in Brussels.

The Commission's optimism about the British economy, which is coupled with forecasts of a slowing of expansion in the traditionally stronger countries, notably West Germany, is, however, considerably more qualified than some advance reports have suggested.

For example, the commission gives a warning that inflation could still be in double figures at the end of 1978 if the Government is unable to meet its target of holding the average

rise in wages to 10 per cent during the 12 months from July 31.

Unofficial estimates here reckon that earnings are likely to rise by at least 15 per cent on average.

If this forecast is accurate the Commission believes there will be only a temporary acceleration in demand and that by the end of next year economic growth will have weakened and inflation will be gathering pace again.

The combined effect of an initial slowdown in prices and acceleration in earnings could be a strong revival of private consumption, with total gross fixed asset formation showing a rather lower rate of increase, the Commission considers.

Strong growth in private sector fixed asset formation (especially in the manufacturing industry), the Commission thinks, will be partly offset by a further substantial decline in public sector investment. Little change is seen in public authorities' current consumption.

ounding a more optimistic note, the Commission estimates that British GDP should increase by 3 per cent provided wages are held down. As much as 1 per cent of this growth would be accounted for by increased production of North

Sea oil.

On the external side, the Commission says that "there should be a continued and rapid expansion in net exports, because of the contribution of North Sea oil; pointing to a current account surplus of more than £1,000m in 1978."

The public sector borrowing requirement for 1978-79 should remain within the figure indicated in the Chancellor's letter of intent to the International Monetary Fund without increasing tax pressure significantly, the Commission believes. However, domestic credit expansion could be close to its permitted ceiling.

The four main problems facing Britain in drawing up budgetary policy for 1978-79 are summarized by the Commission as follows:

After reaching a low point in the second half of 1976, the rate of inflation may begin to rise once more; the rate of economic growth may not be sufficient to avoid a fall in capacity utilization; and a further rise in unemployment; the balance of demand between consumption and investment must deteriorate; there could be pressure to use the room for manoeuvre created by the expected balance of payments surplus to stimulate private consumption.

Post Office services all show profit

By Malcolm Brown

All Post Office services are earning a profit for the first time since the corporation was set up in 1969, Sir William Ryland, its chairman, said in London yesterday.

Sir William, addressing the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, said he expected an outburst of criticism when the year's final figures were published at the end of the month. Critics would claim that the corporation was making too much money at a time when prices were rising and services being cut back.

"I shall be criticized in a few weeks' time because we have made a profit just as not so long ago I was criticized for not making a profit," said Sir

Malcolm Brown. Estimates of the final profit figure have ranged in recent months between £350m and £400m.

Sir William, who retires on October 31, said the postal service was one of the few in well-developed countries in the black.

Adding that he was not planning any further increases in the cost of letters and parcels, Sir William said: "I would aim to keep the cost of stamps the same for as long as we possibly can."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why both the UK and US 'won' in civil air deal

From Sir James Dunnett

In the letters you have published recently about the draft UK-US Civil Aviation Air Services Agreement there have been adverse comments about the outcome so far as the United Kingdom is concerned, and, by implication, criticisms of the way the negotiations were handled on the British side. I do not believe that these critics are justified, and as a member of the United Kingdom team at Bermuda in 1946, it may be appropriate if I comment on a few points of special significance.

(a) None of your correspondents refers to the much improved rights across the Pacific which have been secured for Cathay Pacific, the important and rapidly growing airline based in Hong Kong for which the United Kingdom negotiators were also responsible.

(b) It is argued that the United Kingdom was unwise to denounce the original Bermuda agreement. Sir William Hildred has likened the United Kingdom action to a pomeranian taking on an alsatian. I do not agree with this view. Both parties held very strong views on some of the basic issues involved, notably on capacity control and denunciation was necessary if there were to be meaningful negotiations on these crucial matters. And indeed, the concessions the Americans have made are substantial. In a letter to Flight International published on July 9, Sir William said about capacity control: "When the June came and the fuel crisis and the recession diminished tourism there came the obscenity of empty seats flying back and forth across the Atlantic."

The promised control is the most valuable security in the forthcoming treaty, the cornerstone of the whole structure. I agree very much with the passage just quoted.

(c) It might be thought that the United Kingdom was the first country to denounce a civil aviation agreement with the United States. This is not so. Both the French and Italian governments did so some years ago.

(d) Sir Peter Masfield argues that the new agreement gives away substantial underlying rights to points beyond the United Kingdom, together with continued authority for airlines to make a change of gauge. This is not, I think fair comment on what the United Kingdom negotiators have achieved. Following the five-year phase-out period, the only United States firm freedom passenger rights from London (apart from the round the world service on a daily basis) will be to four points in Germany while the only United States fifth freedom passenger rights from Hong Kong will be to Japan, Bangkok and Singapore. Moreover, all the fifth freedom rights in the Pacific will be subject to specific fre-

Moderating price increases

From Mr Michael Young
Sir, The director-general of the Food Manufacturers' Federation has said recently that this council's survey showing that one wife in the United States flag service to the British flag. This was the purpose of the British denunciation of the old agreement". The new "combination rights" are a pale shadow of the fifth freedom rights now withdrawn.

(e) None of your correspondents refers to the much improved rights across the Pacific which have been secured for Cathay Pacific, the important and rapidly growing airline based in Hong Kong for which the United Kingdom negotiators were also responsible.

(f) It is precisely because of the steadily rising prices, which have outstripped wage increases that some of the most powerful trade unions are, now, again demanding wage restraint.

We all know what the result of a renewed explosion of wage demands would mean - higher prices which in turn would lead to higher wage demands. And it would go on.

If employers and Government are to get the unions to accept such a policy as the latest National Food Survey shows that housewives have reacted to rising prices by cutting back on their spending on food.

Youth,
MICHAEL YOUNG,
Chairman,
National Consumer Council,
18 Queen Anne's Gate,
London SW1R 9AA.
July 12

Public spending

From Mr Richard Law

Sir, Mr Geoffrey Drax in his letter of July 11, like other trade unionists, shows symptoms of delusion. He seems to believe that his members have some "divine right" to an ever increasing slice of the taxpayers' and ratepayers' money. This is not so. Indeed many people, including apparently several of the present Cabinet, believe that taxpayers in their role as voters are tending to vote against the "social wage" and in favour of spending more of their own incomes themselves. This chalice whose economic merits must be assumed to have been weighed in the Whitsun plumb to which Mr Drax objects.

The consequences may well be painful for some Nato members, and no sensible person will fail to sympathise. But the right of voters to make this choice is as inalienable as is Mr Drax's right to campaign against it. To denounce it as "unaffordable" seems to me to be, indeed, most call in question Mr Drax's support for the democratic process.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LAW,
55 Cornhill,
London EC3V 3PF.
July 12

Unwelcome bid expenses

From Mr A. Newton Husbands
Sir, In your issue of July 5 commenting on the results of the Whitcross Company, mention is made of the fact that the company incurred expenses of £56,300 in resisting a takeover bid from Hanson Trust.

In one of the Sunday papers I learnt that Century Oil had incurred expenses amounting to £55,000 in resisting a takeover bid from British Petroleum. I also remember that in 1970 it cost Tomatin Distillers Company £19,717 in resisting a takeover bid from the Distillers Company Limited.

These are only three instances, but doubtless there

PICCADILLY THEATRE LTD.

Statement of the Chairman, Sir Donald Albery,
to the Shareholders

At last year's Annual General Meeting I told you that I could not promise you anything particularly interesting for the current year, and this has indeed proved to be the case as the net profit after tax of £16,719 is again a very poor return on the capital invested. However, I went on to say that in general terms I thought the outlook for the future might well be beginning to brighten, although trading conditions continued to deteriorate throughout the early part of the current year - not helped by a renewal of bombing attacks. I am sure that the much improved results and the outlook for the rest of the year, barring unforeseen circumstances, should result in considerably improved profits for the year as a whole.

The main problem for the independent theatre is political actions by the Government, one being their insistence that VAT is to be removed from the five performing arts, so that Shakespeare, Shaw and Stoppard, Mozart and Beethoven are subject to VAT whilst soft and hard-porn literature is VAT free, quite contrary to what happens in countries like France where this kind of literature is subject to VAT at the general rate of 33 1/3%.

The other matter of vital importance to the commercial theatre is that the tendency, fortunately less prevalent at the moment of the subsidised theatre, not to raise their price of admission in line with inflation is quite clearly a most unfair form of competition.

APV chief heads small firms advice panel

Dr Kenneth Miller, managing director of APV Holdings, has been appointed chairman of the steering committee for the Manufacturing Advisory Service, the Department of Industry's newly-formed organization which aims to assist small and medium-sized companies.

Dr Miller, who is 51, heads a committee of 14 members drawn from industrial, academic and trade union circles whose task will be to advise on the operation and development of the service.

The chief function of the new body will be to help companies employing between 100 and 1,000 workers in metal working and assembly to increase efficiency by adopting modern but well proven technology and management practices. The department said yesterday the service would start on a modest

scale, aiming to cover about 700 firms in the first two years at an estimated cost of £1.75m.

Dr Miller, a former ICI executive, joined APV in 1974 and has served on the National Economic Development Council's process plant working party, the production committee of the Confederation of British Industry and the engineering design advisory committee of the Design Council.

Extracts from the 1976 Annual Report of Banque Nationale de Paris

Consolidated Balance Sheet

The consolidated balance sheet total was F206,000 Million, a rise of 18% as compared with 1975. This amount is 9% higher than the BNP balance sheet total. Employed capital before appropriation of profits amounted to F4,382 Million, F749 Million more than that of BNP alone.

The Economic Background

After twenty years of energetic growth, the time has come for moderation. Nevertheless progress is still important, and rational and selective growth rate needs to be adopted which can be pursued in the long term without seriously affecting the economic system.

In this difficult economic climate and in its awareness of the considerable work which remains to be done, the BNP Group has made every effort in all areas to contribute to making the necessary adjustments both to the French economy and throughout the world.

International Banking

Pursuing a policy of expansion which has made its international network one of the largest in the world, BNP launched new initiatives in 1976 to extend its involvement in major business operations and to make the maximum use of existing facilities.

Representative offices, branches and subsidiaries in over 60 countries in which BNP is now established contributed extensively to the development of trade in their areas of activity.

New branches were opened in

South Korea, Bahrain and Belgium, and representative offices were established in Hong Kong and Oslo.

In Australia, BNP moved to a new and bigger branch office in Sydney, while BNP Canada Inc. opened a new office in Vancouver, and French Bank of California new offices in Los Angeles and Newport Beach. In addition, plans for setting up a jointly owned subsidiary, Banque du Caire et de Paris S.A.E., were drawn up in 1976.

Export Finance

BNP continues to occupy a predominant position in export finance for capital goods. Its share in the amount of credits granted and utilised continued to be nearly a quarter of the total granted by all French banks.

Besides participating in the financing of equipment for the exploitation of North Sea deposits, BNP confirmed its presence in East European countries, in the countries of the Maghreb, and in India, by renewing earlier credit agreements - in most cases, involving larger amounts.

International Bank Loans and Bond Issues

Euro-credits increased appreciably in both volume and size, and BNP participated in a number of international financial credits.

In 1976, BNP participated in 214 of the 273 public issues recorded. It managed and co-managed 40 of these. These, by their volume, placed BNP in twelfth place amongst the institutions which managed such operations this year.

Burmah to seek oil in Adriatic

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, July 14

Burmah Oil, which suspended international offshore oil exploration initiatives after running into financial difficulties in 1974, has returned to the scene in Italy with the award of a permit in the Adriatic.

Earlier this week it was made known that Burmah was also heading a consortium to explore for oil off the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean.

Burmah applied to the Italian Ministry of Industry for the Adriatic permit last November.

It covers 6,320 hectares of

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quency limitations. The chairman of Pan American Airways has said recently that the new pact "transfers" net economic benefit from the United States flag service to the purpose of the British flag. This was the purpose of the British denunciation of the old agreement". The new "combination rights" are a pale shadow of the fifth freedom rights now withdrawn.

estates refers to the much improved rights across the Pacific which have been secured for Cathay Pacific, the important and rapidly growing airline based in Hong Kong for which the United Kingdom negotiators were also responsible.

We are all in favour of bands passing on some of the Pacific which have been secured for Cathay Pacific, the important and rapidly growing airline based in Hong Kong for which the United Kingdom negotiators were also responsible.

It is precisely because of the steadily rising prices, which have outstripped wage increases that some of the most powerful trade unions are, now, again demanding wage restraint.

Plea for justice from DoT by Norwest

Norwest Holst, the multi-million pound civil engineering company, was entitled to receive natural justice from the Department of Trade when it was considering whether to investigate the company's affairs, said a QC in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Stanley Brodie, QC, for Norwest Holst, submitted that the department should not have refused to disclose to the company the reasons for its decision to set up the investigation, and the evidence on which it acted, and should have listened to the company's representations on the matter.

The language of the 1948 Companies Act, under which the Secretary of State for Trade had acted, was not appropriate to exclude the normal rule requiring both parties to a dispute to be fairly heard, counsel said.

The company contends that the Trade Secretary's appointment of two inspectors, Mr Lewis Davies, QC, and Mr Thomas Harding, to conduct the inquiry was invalid, and claims an injunction to stop the inspectors exercising their investigative powers.

Mr Brodie told Mr Justice Foster that the decision to set up an inquiry adversely affected a company's business and impinged upon its rights.

Its right to autonomy was seriously interfered with by the appointment of the inspectors, its rights of property and reputation were damaged, and its right to carry on business without let or hindrance was plainly affected.

All this had to be borne in mind when considering in what circumstances the Minister should exercise his powers to set up an inquiry into a company's affairs, Mr Brodie said.

The Trade Secretary had to decide whether the circumstances suggested that the persons concerned with the management of the company were guilty of fraud, misfeasance or other misconduct.

That, submitted Mr Brodie, involved a determination upon evidence.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

BSC and Davy in package for Venezuela steelworks complex

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Britain's heavy engineering industry is poised to secure valuable export business for providing equipment to a £60m steelworks complex being built in Venezuela.

The British Steel Corporation yesterday signed an agreement to provide engineering, technical, and operating services for the new plant through its overseas services subsidiary.

The immediate value of the deal to BSC is about £12m, pushing the total value of business in the overseas service company's order book to between £50m and £60m. More contracts are expected to be announced in the next few weeks.

But prospects for British companies picking up a substantial slice of the equipment orders for the new plant, to be built in the state of Zulia on the western coast of Lake Maracaibo, are good.

The negotiations began last

year, and the BSC is hopeful that it will be able to demonstrate the desirability of providing a complete British package similar to deals which it has negotiated elsewhere in Latin America—notably Mexico—under which a British company will be responsible for the procurement of equipment for the steelworks.

Davy International and its merchant bankers, Morgan Grenfell, have been involved in preliminary negotiations and both concern have a wide experience of similar steelworks packages for developing countries.

Detailed specifications for the plant are expected to be prepared by early next year and tenders will be sought about mid-year.

The new steelworks complex forms part of an industrial development plan for the Zulia region which is being undertaken by Corpogas, an autonomous institution which is responsible for development in the

state. Great importance has been attached to the scheme by President Perez, the Venezuelan head of state.

The first phase of the steelworks development is due to be completed in 1983, and will have an annual capacity of 1.2 million tonnes a year. The plant will produce steel bars, wire rod and sections.

About 30 specialists from the BSC, some of whom are at present working as advisers on the Sicarts steel complex in Mexico, will shortly begin work in Venezuela.

By the early part of the next decade the Venezuelan steel industry will have an annual production capacity of about 6 million tonnes.

The deal with Venezuela—in which the Prime Minister has taken a close personal interest—provides a considerable fillip for the BSC, which is faced with heavy losses on its own steel-making operations as a result of the continued international steel recession.

Business appointments

Mr L Urquhart to become Burmah finance director

Mr Lawrence Urquhart will join the Burmah group as finance director from September and a director of the board of Burmah Oil. He is at present group finance director of Tozer Kemistry & Millboards (Holdings).

Mr Jack Gill, executive deputy chairman of Associated Television Corporation, has been appointed deputy chief executive and managing director of Associated Television. Mr Alan Collins, deputy chairman, who has indicated that he will retire in September, has been invited to remain on the board. Mr Louis Benjamin, formerly a joint managing director, has been made a deputy chairman. The joint managing director post has been held by Mr A. Johnston, managing director of Seymour Adelaide.

Mr Geoffroy North has been elected chairman of City Offices Co. to succeed Mr George Pitt, who has resigned.

Mr K. A. Burgess has been appointed managing director of Seymour Adelaide.

Mr H. Bloom is now on the board of London Scottish Finance Corporation. Mr H. Livingstone remains as life president.

The Steering Committee for the Manufacturing Advisory Service has been appointed as follows:

Mr J. E. Scrutton and Mr B. E. Newman have resigned.

Mr K. A. G. Miller (chairman), Mr B. Astor, Dr G. S. Bross, Mr R. C. Cartwright, Dr A. H. Chilton, Mr G. R. P. E. D. H. Gor, Mr G. Laird, Mr H. M. Lanz, Mr T. S. Monkton, Mr F. W. W. Morley, The Earl of Shannon, Dr H. J. Sharp and Mr J. H. Wilder.

Mr John Gurney has been made chairman of the newly-formed general shipping division of the Furness Withy Group. The deputy chairman is Captain Owen Thomas.

Mr H. C. Engbert joins the board of George M. Callender.

Mr Everard Goodman has been appointed chairman of Barnett Devaney Group. Mr Alan Peter has joined the board and Mr A. Johnston has been re-elected.

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TERMS OF TRADE

The following are the unit value index numbers for visible trade not seasonally adjusted, issued by the Department of Trade yesterday:

1970=100 Terms of Exports Imports Trade

	1974	1975	1976	1977 Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	1977 Q1	Q2 p
1974	162.7	198.5	240.6	219.0	234.2	247.4	261.7	274.5	281.0
1975	218.0	245.0	299.4	268.3	291.7	307.3	330.0	340.7	350.0
1976	75.6	81.0	80.4	81.6	80.3	80.5	80.9	80.6	80.3
1977 Q1	219.0	268.3	283.0	291.7	291.7	307.3	330.0	340.7	350.0
Q2	220.0	272.0	295.6	291.7	291.7	307.3	330.0	340.7	350.0
Q3	222.0	274.0	298.4	291.7	291.7	307.3	330.0	340.7	350.0
Q4	222.0	274.0	298.4	291.7	291.7	307.3	330.0	340.7	350.0
1977 Q1	224.0	276.0	299.4	291.7	291.7	307.3	330.0	340.7	350.0
Q2 p	224.0	276.0	299.4	291.7	291.7	307.3	330.0	340.7	350.0

1970=100 Terms of Exports Imports Trade

1974 162.7 218.0 75.6

1975 198.5 245.0 81.0

1976 240.6 299.4 80.4

1977 Q1 219.0 268.3 81.6

Q2 234.2 291.7 80.3

Q3 247.4 307.3 80.5

Q4 261.7 330.0 79.3

1977 Q1 274.5 340.7 80.6

Q2 p 281.0 350.0 80.3

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1977 Q1 261.7 330.0 79.3

Q2 p 274.5 340.7 80.6

1970=100 Terms of Exports Imports Trade

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Barclays Bank

German Ford to invest £750m

er AG, owned by
Motor Company of
plans to invest about
£750m over

five years, the chair-
Peter Weilner, said.

I think the money will
chiefly on developing
plants and on associated
facilities.

Speculators
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whether this one-off benefit
was around DM500m the plan
said.

Turnover this year is ex-
pected to be around

DM110,000m compared with

DM8,600m last year, Herr Franz

Bertle the finance director said.

If present trends continue,
production is expected to rise

to some 350,000 vehicles from

nearly 813,000, Herr Weilner

said.

He declined to make any

profit prediction, but said that

earnings would not rise at a

parallel rate to turnover

because of the effect of last

year's favourable court decision.

Herr Weilner said that Ford

will take on a further 3,000

workers by the end of the year

with its labour force already up

to 53,000 from 48,000 in 1976.

He added that the demand
for vehicles would slacken in
the second half, with the 10 per
cent rise in new German car

registrations in the first half
likely to ease to a 5 per cent

increase over the full year.

Its United Kingdom counter-
part in May became the first

car company to capture the first

four places in the United King-
dom car sales league. Leyland

Cars was outsold by the Cortina,

with 11,553 sales for April, the

latest recorded month, the

Escort some 10,265, the new

Fiesta 4,942, the Capri 4,593 and

the Vauxhall Chevette at 4,384.

The Mini, in eighth place with

3,724 sales, was only marginally

ahead of Ford's German-built

Granada. Ford was also the

leading United Kingdom man-

ufacturer in April.

£200,000 government loan for AB Engineering

Glasgow-based Associated
British Engineering has reached

agreement with the Secretary of

State for Scotland for a secured

loan of £200,000 to be made to

ABE's principal operating sub-

sidiary, British Polar Engines,

under the terms of the Industry

Act, 1974.

The purpose of the loan is to

finance the development of a

new gearbox for use with the

P20 range of marine diesel en-

gines manufactured by British

Polar.

This loan will be free of in-

terest for the first two years.

The loan agreement includes

provisions, *inter alia*, to the

effect that so long as any part

of the loan remains outstanding,

British Polar will not pay any

dividends without the permis-

sion of the Secretary of State,

Boots first quarter goes well

By Our Financial Staff

Though the weather in the opening quarter from April 1 has been less favourable than in 1976, Boots, manufacturing and retail chemists, "have certainly done better than the rather depressed performance of other retailers". Dr G. I. Hobday, chairman, told the annual meeting in London that this was made with the help of group marketing policies and new and improved shops.

Of the various sectors, sales of Boots, The Chemist, including dispensing, rose 17 per cent in the quarter. On the industrial side, sales to customers outside the group were 18 per cent ahead of the corresponding period. Proben, its new anti-rheumatic product, was now registered in the United Kingdom and some other countries. Marketing should start soon in this "important" new product.

The new development would also give valuable support to the position the group held with Bruton, which enjoyed substantial sales volume. But having been on the market for eight years, newer anti-rheumatic products from competitors were challenging.

Generally, the non-retail side in recent years had become increasingly involved in manufacture and marketing of a range of products throughout the world. This was now an important part of the group's business, with potential for continued growth.

Overall, the company's future, he said, was dependent to a considerable extent on the Government's ability to get the country's economy right, and on the growth of international trade.

In the year to end-March last, it turned in pre-tax profit of some £91.1m on sales of £735m.



Dr. G. I. Hobday.

The Milk Marketing Board Annual General Meeting 1977

UK AGRICULTURE WILL OUTLAST OIL

Transition into EEC

It would be wrong to pretend that as an industry we do not look back on transition, if not with dismay, certainly with considerable disappointment. In my address of 1972 I referred to the decision to join the European Economic Community as signalling "the end of policies of restriction which the industry has endured for so many years". A great deal is summed up in the sad fact that milk production in the year just past was only marginally higher than in 1972/73, notwithstanding dramatic growth in cow yields in some intervening years. The main growth in our industry occurred before the transitional period began and at no time during transition has the real income of milk producers reached the level of the early 1970's. I shall argue that this state of affairs is not a symptom of the poverty of our national economy - or even caused by that poverty - but is itself one of the reasons for it: policies which lead to it are not only impoverishing milk producers, many of whom can, and are, using their resources to do other things, but much more seriously, adding to the poverty of ailing Britain.

It was always accepted in the debate before entry into Europe that food would become relatively more expensive than it had been. It was understood that this would assist the farmer and would result in the expansion of British agriculture. There can be no doubt that the price of food has risen but primarily as a result of inflation. By May this year, the retail price index for food items was about 115 per cent higher than in 1972 (over the same time period the index of average earnings increased by around 130 per cent). A formidable increase but, even so, it was only a mere 1 per cent more than the rise in the retail price index as a whole over the same period. It is clearly not the EEC or British agriculture that is responsible for the increase in the price of food but a rate of inflation without parallel in our history. Furthermore, it is not only the products covered by the Common Agricultural Policy that have become more expensive. One has only to think of what has happened to the prices of such commodities as fish, coffee, tea, fruit, vegetables and potatoes to realise that there have been far wider influences than the EEC affecting the price of food.

As the largest in the West in a few years, the average price of the retail price of food, representing an average over 8 per cent, has gone up by 10 per cent. The consortium of large food companies, the Milk Marketing Board, has increased its share of the market by 10 per cent. The Milk Marketing Board, however, is less well off than the rest of the food industry because its share of the market has fallen by 10 per cent. John B.



Inflation and Food Consumption

Another consequence of inflation is that it results in a loss of perspective. It is true that in the last year or two, consumers have had to spend a growing proportion of their incomes on food, an unusual feature in a developed country. However, the reason is not so much the relative rise in the price of food as the fall in real incomes resulting from inflation and depression. Even so, consumers are still spending less than a quarter of their incomes on food, a smaller proportion than they were in the early 1970's.

There is a depressing tendency for people to assume that the whole benefit of higher food prices flows to the farmers. Nothing could be further from the truth. On average, the farm gate price is only half the cost of the product that the consumer buys. The other half is accounted for by processors' costs and the margins of distributors. Even in these terms the dairy industry provides the British housewife with a remarkable service. In the United Kingdom, in 1975, the cost of processing and distributing liquid milk added about 80 per cent to the price received by the producer. In other EEC countries, the on-cost was anywhere between 100 and 125 per cent. Moreover, the British housewife enjoyed the convenience of having her milk delivered to the doorstep and did not have to collect it from a shop as in the rest of the Community.

Food Prices

In real terms the price of milk and dairy products has tended to decline and is certainly much less than say 10 years ago. The number of minutes taken by the average male wage earner to earn the price of a pint of milk in 1976 was only 3% compared with 5½ in 1966. The number of minutes taken to earn the price of a lb of cheese - English Cheddar - in 1976 was 20% compared with 25% in 1966. The real cost of that most politically sensitive of all products - butter - has also been reduced in the same time span. In 1976 it took 16½ minutes to earn a lb of butter and in 1966 it took 23%.

When the prices of milk and dairy products are looked at internationally in a similar way, it is found that, over many years, the British pint of milk has been cheaper than in any other country apart from Denmark, New Zealand and Sweden, while a lb of butter cost less only in New Zealand.

I make these points not in the hope of persuading consumers that price increases are to be welcomed but in order to inject a little perspective into a subject that arouses such deep emotions that all sense of proportion is liable to be lost.

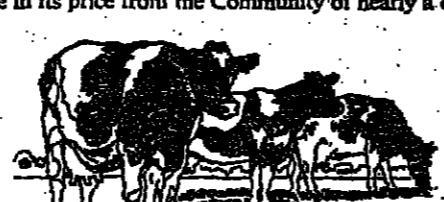
Our Board is, first and foremost, a marketing organisation and, as such, our first concern is with markets and with the consumers of which they are made up. This is why, over the years, we have devoted so much time, effort and money in promoting these markets. Many of our activities in improving the quality of the basic milk supply and the efficiency with

From the Address by the Chairman Sir Richard Trehane

Wanted—Fair Competition

In handling our markets we do not fear competition from whatever source - indeed over the years we have thrived on it - but we do expect it to be fair competition. At the present time (mid-1977) because of the operation of the Green rates of exchange and the system of monetary compensatory amounts that support it, German milk producers, who last year exported 43,000 tonnes of butter to our market, were subsidised by the taxpayers of the whole Community to the extent that they received a price of £2,135 per tonne for it. In the same way Irish producers obtained £1,520 per tonne, French producers £1,645 per tonne and Dutch producers £1,985 per tonne. Meanwhile the price to UK producers was £1,142 per tonne. A system which creates such wide differences in price between producers supplying the same market is bound to produce serious distortions which are certainly not going to be in the general long-term interests of the UK. The system obviously discourages milk output in the UK which is already a deficit area and encourages it in other parts of the Community which are already largely in surplus. The effects on consumption are similarly adverse. This again leads to a further boosting of the economies of the countries in the Community which are already strong, by the encouragement of their exports and a further weakening of the UK economy through the acceptance of a system which leads to these imports.

In any consideration of butter prices on the UK market we must appreciate the true position of these in relation to the price which New Zealand receives and the so-called "world" price that the Commission uses to calculate import levies. The "world" price in this context is based on trade in a few thousand tons of butter that would be completely inadequate to supply the UK market. The price New Zealand obtains is no indication of the price they would receive if the UK were not in the EEC. New Zealand is in fact currently asking for an increase in its price from the Community of nearly a quarter.



Subsidised Butter

Prior to British entry to the EEC, butter in the UK was cheap because overseas suppliers apart from New Zealand were prepared to subsidise their exports here. An analysis of these subsidies in 1968, for example, shows European countries (and Australia) subsidising butter sales to the UK by between £60 and over £400 per ton. There is no doubt that subsidies would now have to be very much larger than this to lower butter prices in the UK below their present levels. To support the present size of our market, on the other hand, at the present price, some supplies at least would have to be drawn from EEC countries. Either in or out of the Common Market therefore, the price of butter on the UK market will depend on the EEC, on the policies it adopts towards export restrictions and on its policies towards the level of milk production within its borders. As a non-member of the EEC, the UK would have no voice in the formulation of these policies. Whatever these policies were, if the UK withdrew, it would hardly be surprising if the EEC adopted a different policy towards a country that had decided to leave "the Club" than towards other countries that had never been members. Pondering on these imponderables, it would seem foolish, if not downright misleading, for anyone to be enthusiastic that the UK might enjoy lower butter prices if it were outside the EEC.

Looking back over where we stand as we approach the end of transition, it is the distortions that have been produced in dairy production, processing and marketing through a succession of events culminating in the massive fall in the commercial rate of exchange in the latter half of 1976 which have been the most disturbing feature. Most of the distorting effects were unforeseen in 1972 and the early part of 1973 but there has indeed been a general failure by successive Governments to take action in time, with the result that there has been a massive stimulus to UK imports from Community sources producing at higher cost than in the UK.

Let us not forget either that the Treaty of Rome specifically sets out, as one of its aims, encouragement of the best use of the Community's resources by rationalisation of production in the areas of the Community best suited to it. The situation that I have described in fact has the contrary effect.

Producer Prices

In the recent price review decisions the Community Target

Price was raised by 3½ per cent above the level prevailing in the

quarterly Census Returns. The

rate of inflation has been

so high that the real value of

the price has been reduced

by 1½ per cent.

We recognise, of course, that

the balance of payments difficulties of the UK economy

are mainly due to the balance of payments difficulties of the UK economy.

I have already covered the former, but should like to add a little to what has already been said about the balance of payments issue.

Oil is no Panacea

In my judgement there has been a dangerous tendency to discuss the case on the assumption that North Sea oil will solve all our problems. I submit that, important as North Sea oil is, it will not turn out to be the panacea for our economic difficulties unless advantage is taken of the breathing space it will provide to bring about a fundamental restructuring of the British economy. Unlike the fruits of our land, which can be maintained indefinitely for the benefit of our country and its people, North Sea oil is certainly a finite resource that is likely to be exhausted within the

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

All-round sales fillip plus better margins spur Allied Colloids

By Alison Mitchell

An across-the-board increase in sales coupled with the benefits of a capital expenditure programme filtering through, has given Allied Colloids, the specialty chemicals manufacturer, almost doubled profits.

On turnover which rose from £12.9m to £19.4m in the 12 months to April 2, the group turned in pre-tax profits of almost £5m against £2.4m previously.

And not even a warning by Mr Jack Dawes, chairman, that this level of profit increase was unlikely to be repeated could dampen the enthusiasm of the stock market yesterday, where shares were marked up 7p to 232p at one time.

Most of the improvement has come from an increase in sales. During the period Allied did not raise prices significantly but with overhead costs per unit dropping as the volume increased, the group benefited from better margins.

Allied supplies additives to speed up or improve the chemical processes of manufacturing and industrial companies and has over 100 customers throughout the world. Almost 70 per cent of turnover relates to over-

seas sales, and Mr Dawes discloses that the group has a small but growing market in the Eastern European countries.

Over the past decade pre-tax profits have risen steadily but last year's spectacular increase was "exceptional", and Mr Dawes gives a warning that it would be unrealistic to expect it to be maintained.

However sales in the first three months of the current year are up 25 per cent on last year and if this continues, it would give the group pre-tax profits of around £2.5m at the half-way stage.

For shareholders there is a final dividend of 4.62p gross bringing the total for the year to 6.85p, as forecast in the chairman's statement. This compares with 2.12p last year. There will also be a two-for-one scrip to make the shares more marketable.

Last year's rights issue, which raised about £1m, is to be used to expand the group. According to the chairman there is to be a bigger spending programme this year with money going on both plant and machinery.

Finishing at 233p yesterday, the shares offer a gross yield of 3.9 per cent and a p/e ratio of 12.3.



Mr R. W. "Tiny" Rowland, chairman of Suits.

Suits dips to £4.49m before tax

The latest annual figures from Scottish & Universal Investments, in which Lonrho has a stake of almost 30 per cent, show that pre-tax profits dipped from £4.92m to £4.49m in the year to March 31. This was in spite of turnover rising from £49.15m to £53.33m.

Although earnings per share (before extraordinary items) are down from 8.96p to 7.27p, the final gross dividend is going up from 4.01p to 4.35p. This lifts the total from 7.1p to 7.46p.

Pre-tax profits were struck after depreciation up from £503,000 to £178,000, a jump in interest payable from £79,000 to £39,000 and associated-company losses of £289,000, compared with £278,000. But they include interest, investment and other income of £1.06m, against £1.45m last time.

Profits, after tax, fell from £2.78m to £2.26m. But there are no extraordinary items to be deducted this year, compared with a £5.24m charge last year. Suits' shares dropped by 4p to 89p yesterday.

Suits' pre-tax profits hit a record £5.44m in 1974-75, but then fell to £4.92m in the following 12 months.

In the half-year to September 30, turnover was up from £23.2m to £27.26m but pre-tax profits fell from £2.67m to £2.5m. The board explained that the profit decline reflected a reduction in sales margins in some divisions and an increased financing requirement.

Suits' activities cover printing, publishing and bookselling, whisky, engineering, dry cleaning, textiles and soft drinks.

The year's pre-tax results was expected to be in line with the previous year's.

In March, Sir Hugh Fraser, then chairman of Suits' told the board that he and other members of his family and family trusts had sold to Lonrho 7.46m ordinary shares in Suits' 24 per cent of the capital at 85p each.

Sir Hugh stepped down from chairman to deputy chairman in favour of Mr R. W. Rowland, who was appointed Suits' chairman.

Swiss now hold near 30pc of Provincial

By Our Financial Staff

The chairman of Provincial Laundries, Mr Arthur Ball, has sold around 20 per cent of his holding in the group to a Swiss investment company.

Added to the shares it has already bought from another source this gives UBI Service Industries Holdings a 29.1 per cent stake in Provincial.

Mr Ball said yesterday that he had been contemplating resigning from the board for some time and decided to sell the shares after being approached by UBI. The Swiss company assured him they were holding the shares "purely as a long-term investment".

Over the past few years Provincial has had an erratic profit record. But Mr Ball told share-

holders in his annual statement that the group is maintaining an aggressive sales policy and expects a continuing upward trend in turnover.

Provincial also plans to increase its business both by internal growth and through acquisition or merger. Mr Ball, who took over as chairman last year, said he had been hoping to expand the board for some time, and at UBI's suggestion, Mr Brian Burnett has joined the directors.

Mr Ball will be announcing his resignation to shareholders at the annual meeting. For reasons of ill-health he feels he cannot continue to travel between his South of England home and the company's Newcastle offices.

Eleventh peak year turned in by Airfix Industries

Toy group Airfix Industries is still producing record figures.

In the year to March 31, profits, before tax and minorities, rose from £3.44m to £4.03m on turnover up from £53.66m to £59.39m. As indicated in June 1976, a final dividend of 2.7p gross is being paid. This maintains the total at 4.39p per cent, but it is being paid on capital more than doubled from 12.3m to 25.96m shares. The capital was enlarged by a rights issue and enfranchisement scheme.

Earnings per share (adjusted for the rights issue) are unchanged at 7.6p.

Mr Ralph Ehrmann, the chairman, said: "I look forward to further progress in the current year. A salient point in the accounts which will be published on August 19, is the increase of assets per share from 43.1p to 61.5p."

This is the eleventh successive year Airfix has produced record results.

Gen Elec (US) up to expectations

International

Govett (Far East), Hoare Govett forecasts Hutchison's 1977 net profit of \$HK115m compared with \$HK79.1m plus a further increase to \$HK138m in 1978, not including full consolidation of HK Dock. Net earnings of HK Dock for 1977 were forecast at \$HK102m against \$HK89.3m, rising to \$HK113m next year.

Mr Jones said: "The improvement shown in this year's second quarter is gratifying and is in line with our expectations for continued improvement in 1977, over 1976, despite the strengthening during the latter months of last year."

He said that sales and earnings for the company's industrial components and systems consumer goods and industrial power equipment were well ahead of the 1976 quarter.

The international category had higher sales, but earnings were down primarily because of the AEG-Telentekun sale. Aerospace sales and earnings were up slightly, Mr Jones said.

Kubota buoyant

Kubota, the Japanese agricultural machinery maker, expects sales for the year ending April 15 to be 10 per cent or more higher than the preceding year, when sales totalled 492,200m yen (about £1,000m). The company said it was unable to predict net income on the same basis for the year in view of severe economic prospects and increased competition from local firms. Net income last year rose by 13.5 per cent to 21,600m yen.

Allied Chemical

Allied Chemical Corporation of America said its operating income from its energy line improved significantly in the second-quarter over the same period a year ago. This re-

Allis-Siemens link-up

Allis-Chalmers' Corporation and Siemens AG have agreed to form Siemens-Alis Inc, a new company with headquarters in the United States and engaged in the electric products business. It is expected to be in operation about next January.

The initial equity of the new company will be owned 30 per cent by A-C and 20 per cent by Siemens, which will contribute cash in exchange for the 20 per cent equity interest.

Siemens will have the option to buy an additional 30 per cent equity interest in January 1979. If the option is exercised, Siemens will pay a total of about \$40m.—AP-DJ.

Hoechst-CibaChem

CibaChem and American Hochem Corporation, a subsidiary of Hoechst AG, have agreed in principle to an acquisition of CibaChem by American Hochem for \$20.8m.

CibaChem, located in La Jolla, makes specialized chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Last year it had a net loss of \$231,518 on revenue of \$15.1m.

In this year's first quarter it earned \$76,963 on revenue of \$3.4m.—AP-DJ.

SOUTHERN INDIA TEA

Douglas Fraser & Sons (London), together with one of its directors, has acquired or irreversibly agreed to acquire, 52.21 per cent of the voting rights of Southern India Tea Estates. An unconditional offer will be sent to remaining holders.

TRUST BANK OF AFRICA

Shareholders representing 35.34 per cent of the shares have accepted offer by Bank Holding Corp of South Africa. Bank holding now owns 50.48 per cent of Trust Bank shares.

CROWN AGENTS SALE

Abbey Capital Holdings (Crown Agents Australia property subsidiary) has sold to National Bank the Capital Tower Office building at Bourke Street, Melbourne for about £47m.

ALPINE HOLDINGS

Present auditors, Aram, Berlin, Gardner and Thompson McLintock, are to resign. Arthur Andersen to be appointed. Alpine intends to expand into complementary activities.

Turnover for year £5.5m. Pre-tax profit £420,000 (£226,000). Earnings a share 8.29p (2.49p). Total dividend 2.97p gross (2.71p).

Overseas decline fails to stop United Gas marching to peak

By Victor Felstead

In spite of a fall in results from overseas offshoots, United Gas Industries managed to push its pre-tax profits up by 24 per cent in the 53 weeks to April 3 to a peak of £1.42m—just beating the previous record of £1.42m achieved in 1971-72.

Sales rose from £33.83m to £36.66m. A breakdown of profits shows that sales of the United Kingdom companies expanded from £25.63m to £28.38m and trading profits from £903,000 to £1.49m. But, although the sales of overseas subsidiaries were up from £8.19m to £8.27m, trading profits slumped from £658,000 to £346,000.

The tax charge is up, but there are no extraordinary

items to be deducted from net profits—compared with £178,000 last year. The result is that the profit attributable to ordinary shares jumped by 56 per cent to £2.91m.

The board explains that earnings per share and cash-flow at home are mainly due to its two appliance companies—Robin Willey and Berry Magical—each of which performed "very satisfactorily" in spite of the poor state of the appliance market generally.

Abrad, however, United suffered from what has become a regular cycle caused by the relatively large and long-term gas-station contracts being manufactured by United's German gas-control company. In 1975, United had a surplus on these contracts—in 1976, a deficit and in 1977, a surplus of £1.7m.

The final dividend goes up from 1.21p to 1.25p gross. This raises the total payment from 3.12p to 3.5p. At this level, the dividend cover is twice

Treasury agreement has been obtained.

United's continued recovery at home is mainly due to its two appliance companies—Robin Willey and Berry Magical—each of which performed "very satisfactorily" in spite of the poor state of the appliance market generally.

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Commodities

COFFEE

COTTON

COPPER

COTTON

COTTON</

Stock Exchange Prices

Defensive marking down

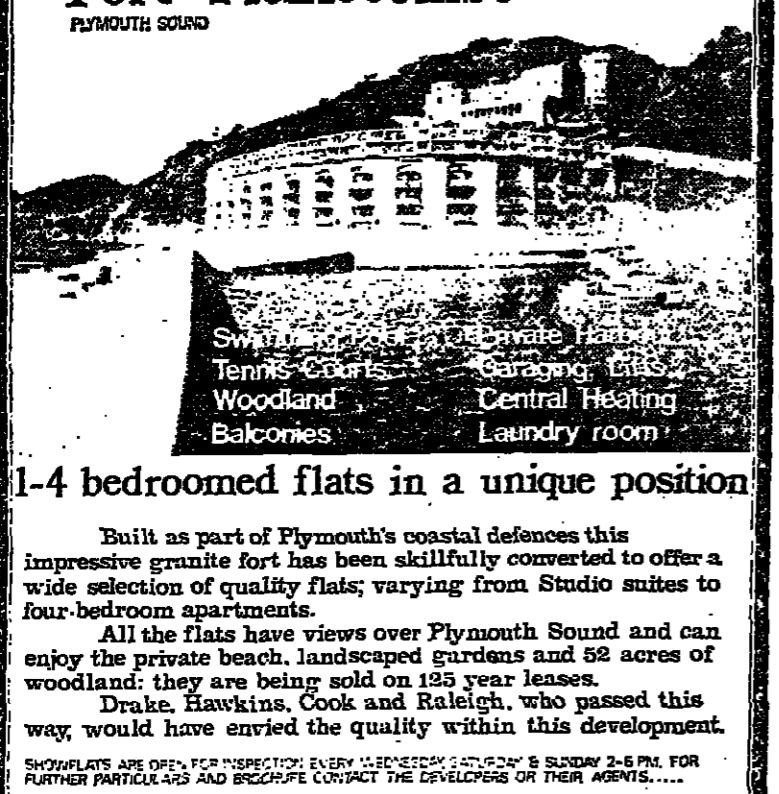
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, July 11. Dealings end, July 22. \$ Consign Day, July 25. Settlement Day, Aug 2
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

	Price	Open	High	Low	Close	Chg.	Vol.	Price	Open	High	Low	Close	Chg.	Vol.	Price	Open	High	Low	Close	Chg.	Vol.	Price	Open	High	Low	Close	Chg.	Vol.		
Funds																														
BANKS FIELD FUND																														
High Low Company	Price	Chg.	Open	Vol.	P/E			High Low Company	Price	Chg.	Open	Vol.	P/E			High Low Company	Price	Chg.	Open	Vol.	P/E			High Low Company	Price	Chg.	Open	Vol.	P/E	
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL																														
A - E																														
AEG	100	-1	99	100	100			AFC	100	-1	99	100	100			AFG	100	-1	99	100	100			AGF	100	-1	99	100	100	
Airtex	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcan	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100	
Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcan	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100	
Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcan	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100	
Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcan	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100	
Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcan	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100	
Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcan	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100			Alcoa	100	-1	99	100	100	
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Creeping paralysis

After a dispiriting day being shown a seemingly endless number of characterless new houses it dawned on me that a fortune awaits the enterprising landscaper who introduces a red-tid creeper service.

Since even ostensibly indestructible vegetation keels over and dies if I achieve so much as a nodding acquaintance with it, I am prepared to unveil my red-tid creeper concept and let more green-fingered readers reap the rewards. The first step is to take a close look at a new housing development. My guide on the day of the creeper was a developer whose relentless enthusiasm for seventeen brick houses where once dozed a rambling country house had won him the right regularly to beat the local bank manager at golf. Seen through his eyes the estates had a beauty indistinguishable from that of used ten pound notes. Each mock Georgian bay window, each tastefully placed brass plated coaching lamp represented the "selling points" of a living unit giving him the maximum possible return on his building plot.

Viewing the new houses without any such proprietary pride they appeared as classic examples of lowest common denominator architecture.

Bearing in mind the undistinguished but rose-covered artisans' cottages beloved of the colour supplement, the missing ingredient became obvious, creepers. Every house hunter can see that at some stage in the development of housing design in this country every second new building acquired a mock pediment. Mock Tudor beams proliferate, but in no way improve the generally appalling standards of heat or sound insulation of new houses. And neo-Georgian executive homes litter the countryside. But they look ludicrous on mass and since they cannot profitably be built on the scale needed to carry off

their pretentious styling, they tend to appear as if they were left out too long in the rain and shrank.

Non-creeper fans and the massed ranks of the country's housing developers would dismiss criticism of new house design on the grounds that they are building what buyers want.

Now, that is a very strong argument. It is as a few brave developers have found to their cost, a new house breaches the standard rules of ordinariness, it is difficult to sell. Evidence of these rules is strung along every roadside in the country. British buyers like roofs that go up in the middle and down at the edges. A relatively sensible point in view of the climate and one which has cost flat roof enthusiasts in the building trade much heartache. People like a front door to be in the front, garages to be at the side, gardens to be both front and back—even when, as a result, sites run out as serried rows of mock semi-detached houses.

It might be thought that even within those demanding parameters architects might manage to inject a little originality into their product. And it could be argued that all buyers are offered it is hardly surprising that they, and their building societies, should want to stick with a known formula for fear of rescue problems. But, who ever is blamed for the financial problems facing the house-builders at the moment quashes any hopes of an improvement in building or design quality in the foreseeable future.

On the face of it conditions appear ripe for a house price explosion and revival of the housebuilding industry. Mortgage interest rates are down and the building societies have plenty of funds to lend. The government's recent housing review endorses this view, backing home ownership

and promising schemes to reduce mortgage costs for first time buyers. And at a time of increasing demand, the supply of new houses is at a low ebb. Department of the Environment forecasts of 150,000 new house starts this year are considered over-optimistic by most builders. So, with more money chasing fewer homes prices should rise.

But appearances are deceptive. The critical factor for builders is the pace of that price increase. Secondhand house prices continue to dictate general market prices and, as building material costs have risen by around 70 per cent since 1974, years in which new house prices rose by only 25 per cent, builders' contracting margins on new homes have been pored to the bone. They may still be able to sell a house profitably if they can make sufficient profit on the sale of the land to make up for negligible profits on the building work. But recent development land legislation gives building land with unencumbered planning permission a scarcity value which makes it difficult and very costly for builders to replenish land banks.

Without sales of historically low cost building land to bolster profits, builders are under pressure to trim costs. By moving down market to attract Government supported and building society favoured first time buyers, pushing for the maximum number of houses on the smallest possible site; building to only the most basic standards and hoping for a sharp rise in prices, builders are hanging on and praying for a return to the days when buyers camped overnight or got a place in the queue to size up offices. In this economic climate any hopes of a renaissance in domestic architecture can be abandoned. So, if you happen to have any creeper seeds...

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